

The Forest Hill Neighborhood  
Association Newsletter

Fall 2018

**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 Bo Williams at [bwilliams@total-printing.com](mailto:bwilliams@total-printing.com).

# Forest Hill Flyer

## The 43rd Street Festival of the Arts Celebrates 27 Years

By Robin Cage

Join your neighbors for art, music and fun on Saturday, September 15, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. From street art to fine art, the 27th annual 43rd Street Festival of the Arts has something for everyone. Eighty selected regional artists and craftsmen will show and sell their work. There will also be live music, local food, and special activities for children. Proceeds from the festival will benefit CARITAS, our local homeless provider.

Many of the artisans have been with the show since the beginning. New artists, however, come on board each year to provide variety and fine craftsmanship in many media. This year's juried outdoor show will include paintings, prints, pottery, sculpture, jewelry, glasswork, and more. Original works of art will be available for purchase and exhibitors will be on hand to discuss and sell their work. The new T-shirt design for 2018 is by local artisan Kim Eubank, who will be showing her prints and works in metal in her booth.

The musical line up this year includes:

10-11 a.m. - The Atkinsons

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - Tin Can Fish Band

1-2 p.m. - Susan Greenbaum

2:30-3:30 p.m. - Bluz Catz

4-5 p.m. - Janet Martin

The unique selection of contemporary art, fantastic local musicians, great food, and a loyal neighborhood crowd round out this event. Everyone associated with the festival, including artists, CARITAS, and food vendors, appreciate the support of all our Forest Hill neighbors who allow us to throw a great party every year at this time.



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

### What's Inside!

New RVA311 System Up and Running—page 5

FHNA Community Service  
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Cosmo, Celebrity Pet—page 13

# The President's Message



By Whit Clements

Wow! What a summer it has been for the neighborhood. The housing market here has been red hot. We've had some neighbors bid adieu to the neighborhood, welcomed new friends, and seen other folks just change houses within Forest Hill. The rain this summer has reminded us that there is really no such thing as a dry basement around here. Music in the Park has again drawn great crowds to the park, giving

everyone some musical inspiration right in their own back yard.

The end of the summer brings the neighborhood to my favorite time of the year here, fall. As we all turn to thoughts of cooler temperatures and the changing colors of the trees, let's not forget about the other changes that happen. One of the changes I am anticipating is how the city will be altering the leaf collection program. Last year was a new system that wasn't without its hiccups and bumps along the way. The FHNA has been reaching out to the Department of Public Works for the details on the collection program for this season. As soon as those details are available we will get them out to the membership on all the platforms we can—the FHNA website, Facebook, NextDoor, and email.

Each fall another change takes place as the association holds elections for all executive positions (president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary), as well as several at-large board spots. This is a great opportunity to become even more engaged within your community. The activities and advocacy provided by the FHNA for the members and residents of Forest Hill is only possible because of the individuals who volunteer their time and efforts. If you are interested in more information about one of the positions or want to run, please email me at [clements.whit@gmail.com](mailto:clements.whit@gmail.com).

I am looking forward to seeing my neighbors out and about this fall!

*Whit and his family are currently still unpacking and loving their new house in the neighborhood, just five blocks from the old one.*

## FHNA Elections

Ever want to be a larger part of the wonderful organization that is the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association?

At the November 20 membership meeting, we will be holding elections for all the executive roles—president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary—as well as some board positions. If you want to throw your hat into the ring or just have questions about the different roles, shoot an email to Whit Clements at [clements.whit@gmail.com](mailto:clements.whit@gmail.com) by October 1, 2018.

## Forest Hill Neighborhood Association 2018-2019

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

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

### OFFICERS

Whit Clements, President  
Robley Jones, Vice President  
Shannon D. Taylor, Secretary  
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### EXECUTIVE BOARD

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## 43rd Street Festival of the Arts September 15th • 10:00am-5:00pm



### Art and Fine Crafts • Music • Food

10:00am-11:00am The Atkinsons  
11:30am-12:30pm Tin Can Fish Band  
1:00pm-2:00pm Susan Greenbaum  
2:30pm-3:30pm Bluz Catz  
4:00pm-5:00pm Janet Martin

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# All About Trees Presentation October 13

Friends of Forest Hill Park is sponsoring a presentation and conversation about the vast array of research being done worldwide on the role of trees in the earth's ecology. The event will be October 13, 2018 from 1-3 p.m. The speaker is Julia Marano, a Master Gardener who has worked in natural resource conservation and management for more than 35 years.

Some of the areas that will be discussed include trees in the natural landscape and in the human-built environment; how trees relate to human health and the community quality of life; soil and water cleanup; and macro ecology. The presentation will qualify for education hours for Tree Stewards. Meet in front of the Stone House to attend.



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# A Message from Our Council Representative



By Kristen Larson

If there has been one thing that has defined this summer for my office it has been—RAIN. From our parks to our streets to our front and back yards, stormwater has been an issue across the 4th District.

I want to commend our parks staff and all the community volunteers who pitched in to help clean up Forest Hill Park after the flash flood in June. I also want to thank our stormwater utility crews who have worked diligently across the district and the city to address issues arising from the incredible amount of rain we've received.

I have gotten several questions recently about the road improvement projects on Forest Hill Avenue and Jahnke Road. As you know, these projects have been in the pipeline for many years and are finally getting close to construction. The Forest Hill Avenue Improvement Project is currently working its way through procurement, and construction should begin soon. Once it begins, you can expect lane closures and delays between Powhite Parkway and Hathaway Road for 18-24 months. Please note that this project is completely distinct from the ongoing DPU gas main replacement that is working its way to the city line just past Huguenot High School.

You have probably noticed that utility relocation work has begun to clear the way for the Jahnke Road Improvement Project. Once Dominion Energy has moved their poles the city will put that project out for bid. This is a long and slow process on a project this big. I will continue to update the community on these and other projects through my email newsletter. If you do not already receive my emails please contact my liaison, Bryce, at [bryce.lyle@richmondgov.com](mailto:bryce.lyle@richmondgov.com) to be added to the list.

I always enjoy visiting with my Forest Hill neighbors at our association meetings and I hope to see you at the next one.

Also, please mark your calendars for my remaining 4th District Meetings on September 27 and December 6 both will be at 6 p.m. at the Huguenot Community Center.

Please feel free to contact me any time at [kristen.larson@richmondgov.com](mailto:kristen.larson@richmondgov.com) or by calling my office at **804-646-5646** or my cell phone at **804-503-1313**.

*The Honorable Kristen Larson represents our neighborhood, the Southwest 4th District in Richmond.*

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# Try Out the City's New RVA311.com Service Request System

See-Click-Fix is no more. So, if you need to report a pothole or a clogged storm drain, **rva311.com** is the way to go. It is the new online, cloud-based interface powered by AvePoint Citizen Services for managing citizen, business, and visitor requests. This user-friendly application will have its own website (**rva311.com**) and will work with any internet-connected device, anytime, anywhere. RVA311 is designed to improve service delivery and enhance citizen engagement for non-emergency requests. The self-service portal enables folks to submit service requests by category, and then by specific service need, and provide for images and files to be uploaded as well.

Mayor Levar M. Stoney called this digital transformation of how the city serves citizens, businesses, and visitors "a game changer," and thanked the four-time Microsoft Partner of the Year Award winner for this technology gifted to the city. "AvePoint's investment in Richmond and their technology powering RVA311 will allow us to serve citizens in a far more transparent way that will be both better and faster," said the mayor. "I encourage Richmonders to utilize this new intelligent reporting tool and to download the mobile app as soon as it becomes available."

Several core city agencies are already utilizing RVA311, including the Richmond Police Department, the Departments of Public Works, Public Utilities, Social Services, Finance and the Department of Planning and Development Review. Additional agencies will come on board at a later date. RVA311 will also serve as the operating system for requests submitted by citizens calling **311** or **804-646-7000**.

Upon submission of any request to **rva311.com**, the system will automatically route it to the appropriate department for review and remedy. Users who provide an email address will receive updates and be notified when the work is completed. There will also be an option for users to create an on-line account, although it is not required for access. The RVA311 portal will also feature answers to 150 frequently-asked questions to further assist users.

See-Click-Fix is no longer supported by the city for service requests. As of June 15, the only way service requests can be submitted to the city will be through the RVA311 portal online, by phone, or via the mobile application. Residents are reminded that RVA311 is for non-emergency requests only. The 911 operator should still be called in any emergency. For more information about RVA311, please contact Krystal Onaitis at **804-972-2901** or **krystal.onaitis@richmondgov.com**.

*This information is from the City of Richmond website, **richmondgov.com**.*



# Please Vote This November

By Robley Jones

We only have elections in Virginia in years that end in a number; so, yes, there is an election on November 6, 2018. It is a Federal election and we will be electing one Virginia Senator and our Representative for the 4th Congressional District to the House of Representatives.

The deadline to register for this election is Monday, October 15, 2018. The link for online registration is **elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/index.html**. The deadline to request that an absentee ballot be mailed to you is October 30, 2018.

It is always a good idea to check your voter registration status prior to the registration deadline, even if you have been voting every year. Mistakes occur, and this last election in our precinct we had a voter whose registration had been mistakenly moved to a precinct in Chesterfield by the Chesterfield registrar. She could not vote at precinct 402, where she had been voting for decades and where she lives. You can prevent mishaps such as this by checking your registration status at **vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation**.

Here are the names you will see on November's ballot:

UNITED STATES SENATE

Corey A. Stewart R

Timothy M. Kaine D

Matt J. Waters L

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 4

Ryan A. McAdams R

A. Donald McEachin D



If there is one thing we have learned from recent elections, it is that *every vote counts*. One House of Delegates seat in the 2017 election was decided by draw after both candidates received an equal number of votes. Your vote will make the difference, so make it count. If you have questions regarding the upcoming election, or if you wish to volunteer to work the polls, please contact Robley Jones at **robleyj@aol.com**.

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# Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt a Success

Thanks to all including Mother Nature who held off the rain for several teams to participate in a neighborhood-wide photo scavenger hunt. Even with a gray and rumbling sky, four teams came out to search the neighborhood and take photos of local treasures.

The boundaries were Forest Hill Avenue to New Kent Avenue south to north, and Forest Hill Park to Cedar Lane east to west. Many of the items on the list were easy to find in our lovely environs—a magnolia tree, a Subaru, a rain barrel, and a Forest Hill neighborhood flag. But others of the 20 items were a challenge. A kayak proved impossible for one team—it seemed all the kayaks were out on the river that day. And only one team found the “sitting Buddha” statue. Hint: it’s on New Kent Avenue.

Based on how many items each team found, they had a chance to enter into a drawing to win a \$25 gift card to Chic-fil-A. Congratulations to Kelley Ritter for winning! Special recognition goes to Marjolein deWit and Ben for finding all 20 items! And thank you to Bo Williams for the brilliant idea for the hunt, which he then organized and implemented. It was great fun!



*One of the requirements was to send a selfie to Bo during the hunt. Here are the four teams who participated.*



## Get Your SWAG On!

Visit [ForestHillNeighborhood.com](http://ForestHillNeighborhood.com)

to see all the great swag we have to support the neighborhood.



We have wine and pint glasses, dog leashes, flags, t-shirts, bags and more!

Proceeds go to the Neighborhood Association, for all the cool things we do.



# From Our School Board Representative

By Jonathan Young



In more than 170 workshops, town-halls, focus groups, and listening sessions this summer, my colleagues and I along with Superintendent Jason Kamras asked what has amounted to hundreds of participants to write an aspirational newspaper

headline for what success would look like for Richmond Public Schools (RPS). A part of our strategic planning process, the hypothetical headline for stakeholders perhaps best described how to improve a failing school district. For yours truly, the headline is "Teachers depart suburban schools in droves for RPS."

First, it's important to note that this aspirational headline couldn't be any further from the truth as it stands now. Currently, RPS loses a fifth of our instructional workforce every year! Specifically, our schools lose on average 22 percent of teachers year over year and many depart to take teaching jobs in the counties.

The reason for their departure may surprise some because it doesn't regard compensation. Instead, it's what one former RPS teacher described when she said to me, "I never had a problem with the little people but rather the big people." She was lamenting how she was required to spend countless hours on paperwork that she learned was never even reviewed by the "big people" that required it of her all the while her "little

people" had to sustain the prioritization of process over product.

Second, it's one thing to aspire but it's another thing to know how to get there. For me, the solution is in creating a school district that treats teachers like the professionals that they are instead of micromanaging adults forcing them to teach to a test. If instead of penalizing teachers for taking ownership we instead championed entrepreneurial values like risk-taking, innovation, departing from orthodoxies, celebrating differences, and defying conformity we could expect very different responses to a Richmond Education Association anonymous survey that identified that 75 percent of RPS teachers found the countless hours of required professional development as currently constituted a complete waste of their time at the expense of other teaching priorities. If instead of second guessing a teacher when she/he departed from the lesson plan for the duration of a class because a student asked a really terrific question, we rather commended the faculty for finding a way to engage the child we would probably stop as a district saying gobbledygook like "implementing curriculum to fidelity." And if we instead of putting teachers in harm's way by allowing a student that assaulted him/her to return to the classroom absent any intervention we rather were clear that our classrooms are not a free for all where anything goes then we could expect a sea of change in recruiting and retaining teachers.

At its core, the headline, "Teachers depart suburban schools in droves for RPS" is about respecting our professionals and becoming a place where the teacher isn't presumed to need the downtown bureaucracy, but instead downtown needs the teacher.

*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@rvschools.net](mailto:jyoung7@rvschools.net).*

## Join the 2018 Halloween Howl Parade and Costume Competition

**Sunday, October 28th, 1-3 p.m.**

Start designing your pooch's costume now and get a leg up on the competition! Bring your dog decked out in costume to socialize with neighbors and participate in activities including Best Pet Trick, Dog/Owner Egg Spoon Race, and Farthest Fetch. Of course, the winners will receive awesome prizes! The event will culminate with a pet/owner dog parade. Parade prizes will be awarded for the fun categories such as Best Dog/Owner Duo, Scariest Dog Costume, Cutest Dog Costume, and Best Dog Costume Overall. Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior are in charge of the judging.

Even if you don't have a dog, come out and cheer our neighborhood pups on! Halloween snacks for people and pups will be available. Our local CritterTown Bath House will be a sponsor providing event prizes, and a pooch pad with treats,

water, and information. In addition, this year, your dog can have his/her nails cut for a donation at their table. Thanks, CritterTown Bath House! Donations will benefit Ring Dog Rescue ([ringdogrescue.org](http://ringdogrescue.org)). Ring Dog Rescue is a rescue group dedicated to the "bully breeds," which is defined as any dog having bulldog lineage. They are a nonprofit organization and are currently listing adoptable "bullies," so please consider bringing a donation.

Plan to register your canine companion between 1-1:20 p.m. The activities will begin shortly after. If you are interested in volunteering for this event please contact Laura Dysart at [lauradysart@verizon.net](mailto:lauradysart@verizon.net). The Halloween Howl is planned and implemented by Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior.





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# At the Westover Hills Library

## Mark Your Calendar for these Cool Fall Events!

### Special Events

#### **Back to School Bash, September 8, 2-4 p.m.**

Congratulations! You made it through the first full week of school. Come celebrate and socialize with us during our Back to School Bash. Enjoy food, music, crafts, and a space to relax with your friends! Learn to de-stress as we begin our yoga practice with beginner yoga videos on YouTube. No mat needed! Designed for teens.

#### **Teen Scene, September 19, 6 p.m.**

Come watch the movie "Spare Parts" and enjoy some snacks and company.

#### **Fire Truck Visit, October 6, 10:30 a.m.**

October is Fire Safety Month. Want to see a fire truck up close? Join us to learn how a fire truck works with the City of Richmond Fire Department.

#### **Teen Scene, October 17, 6 p.m.**

Join us to enjoy the movie "Winchester." Snacks provided!

#### **Pumpkin Decorating, October 19, 4:30 p.m.**

Join us to decorate a pumpkin for your Halloween festivities! Just bring your imagination! Pumpkins and art supplies will be provided! For all ages. Space is limited, registration required at **804-646-8833**.

#### **Special FX Makeup for Teens, October 20, 2-4 p.m.**

Join us as L.B. Beauty Academy staff and students teach us the ins and outs of special effects makeup. Learn to make cuts, sores, bruises and more to get ready for your upcoming Halloween parties. Space is limited, registration required at **804-646-8833**.

#### **Trick or Treat Party, October 31, 5-6:30 p.m.**

Wear your costume and trick or treat at the library! Join us for a craft, DIY special effects makeup, and more. For all ages.

#### **Live Murder Mystery Clue Game, November 7, 5:30-8 p.m.**

Middle and high school students and young adults—you are invited for an evening of intrigue and mystery. Solve a murder based on the board game Clue. Everyone is a suspect—even you! Fun, snacks, and prizes! Sign up in teams of two to 10 people. Registration required. Contact Jenn Deuell at **646-4740** or [jennifer.deuell@richmondgov.com](mailto:jennifer.deuell@richmondgov.com) to reserve your space.

#### **Family Game Day, November 9, 4:30-5:30 p.m.**

In celebration of International Games Week, Westover Hills Library will be hosting a family game day. Come and enjoy indoor and outdoor games suited for the whole family.

### Ongoing Events

#### **Family Flicks**

Join us for a family friendly flick and enjoy a snack. "Bambi" on September 14 at 4:30 p.m.; "Frankenweenie" on October 6 at 2 p.m.; and "Early Man" on November 30 at 4:15 p.m.

#### **Evening Story Time**

Join us for a fun-filled, interactive and engaging story time! Story Time

aims to instill a love of reading with songs, rhymes, and wonderful books and activities for ages 0–5 years with an adult. Wednesdays September 12; October 10 and 24; and November 28 at 6 p.m.

#### **Saturday Story Time**

Join us for a fun-filled, interactive and engaging story time! Story Time aims to instill a love of reading with songs, rhymes, and wonderful books and activities for ages 0–5 years with an adult. Saturdays September 8 and 22; October 6 and 20; and November 17 at 10 a.m. July 28 Story time will be at 10 a.m.

#### **RVA Origami**

RVA Origami folding meetup! All skill levels welcome. Basic supplies provided and no registration is required. Fourth Saturday of the month from 1–4 p.m.

#### **In Stitches**

Enjoy conversation while completing your hand crafts such as knitting and crocheting. For older teens and adults. Thursdays from 2–4 p.m.

#### **Paws to R.E.A.D.®**

Read to a trained therapy dog! Visit with a Paws to R.E.A.D.® team for a 20-minute one-on-one reading session! Reading to a therapy dog has been shown to improve reading skill, enjoyment, and confidence. This program is presented in partnership with Sprite's Hero. Contact the library at **804-646-8833** to sign up for a time slot. Times are the fourth Wednesday of the month from 6 to 7:30 p.m., and the third Saturday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

#### **STEM**

Combine science technology and fun at these creative sessions for kids in grades 6–12. Fridays at 4:30 p.m. Themes for upcoming sessions are Candle Making, September 7; Experimenting with Halloween Candy, October 5; and Leaf Towers, November 16.

#### **Little Scientist**

Calling all scientists ages 3–6! Join us for a story time and activity stations as we explore different topics each month. Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. Upcoming topics are The Human Body, September 25; Colors, October 23; and Dinosaurs, November 27

#### **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 September 17, October 15, and November 26 at 4:30 p.m.

#### **Book Babies**

Join our story time designed to be fun and educational for both children and adults! Enjoy our interactive story, music, finger plays, and rhymes for infants up to 17 months with an adult. Thursdays, 10 a.m.

#### **Toddler Time**

Welcome to our interactive story time designed to be fun and educational with music, plays, stories, rhymes, and wonderful books. For ages 18–36 months accompanied by an adult. Most Thursdays at 11 a.m.

**There will be no Story Time on November 1 or 22. The library will be closed October 8 and November 12, 22 and 23, 2018.**



# Meet Andrew Stevens— 2018 Recipient of the FHNA Community Service Scholarship

Congratulations to Andrew Stevens, this year's recipient of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Community Service Scholarship. In recognition of his service to the community, Andrew received a \$500 scholarship from the FHNA for his college expenses. The 2018 graduate of Trinity Episcopal School will attend the College of William & Mary in the fall where he will be studying anthropology, with an eye toward possibly becoming a museum curator one day.

When asked what was the best thing about living in Forest Hill, Andrew said, "Living in this close-knit neighborhood has always been something I've been proud to talk about with my friends and family. I'd have to say my favorite part about living in the neighborhood is living so close to so many wonderful parks."

If you've taken advantage of Forest Hill Park, then you've probably benefited from Andrew's hard work. He has been an active volunteer with the Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior (FFHP Junior), since he was in sixth grade, an experience he says taught him about "commitment, teamwork, and that community service can be surprisingly fun." As a FFHP Junior volunteer he has helped run the annual Halloween Howl, participated in endless trash pickups, monitored the Bluebird Trail, planted trees, and was instrumental in establishing the Little Free Library in Forest Hill Park.

His volunteer work has also reached outside the community. Through Rise Against Hunger, an international relief organization, Andrew has helped prepare meal packages that were sent to feed the hungry in developing countries. As an IB Diploma Candidate at Trinity, he and some of his fellow students created a slide show about Hurricanes Irma and Maria that ravaged the Caribbean and the Florida Keys to explain ways in

which people could help the affected communities. In addition, he has served as a page for the Richmond Forum, participated in a river clean-up organized by his school to honor a late classmate, and other community projects.

An avid biker, hiker, and rock climber, Andrew enjoys the outdoors and makes good use of local trails and Richmond's many parks. He is passionate about protecting the environment, so one thing that troubles him is the amount of litter. "Cleaning up these spectacular parks is a responsibility that the entirety of our community must face if we want to keep having these privileges," said Andrew. "It is a problem that needs to be addressed. Although it's a big challenge, it's definitely something that the Forest Hill community is capable of facing."

Like any new college student, leaving home can be an adjustment, but Andrew is looking forward to going William & Mary where he can "study and learn, but also have fun at the same time." We wish him much success in his studies (and much fun) and thank him for everything he has done to make our neighborhood such a great place to live.



## Bluebird Trail Update

Spring weather conditions may have contributed to a slower bluebird season in Forest Hill Park and across the state. Volunteers have been monitoring the trail since April, making sure the boxes are in good shape, providing preventive predator care, and recording nests, eggs, hatchlings, and fledglings. Data is then sent on to the Virginia Bluebird Society. We had three chickadees (a native species) and 14 bluebirds fledge from our Forest Hill boxes. One of our boxes near the lake did sustain damage from the flooding this summer and will be moved further inland. It's been a popular house!

Great big thanks to our volunteers Viv Bruzesse, John Bander, Marina Alexander, the Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior, and Good Shepherd Episcopal School students. The season is coming to an end, but if you are interested in trail monitoring, contact Laura Dysart at [lauradysart@verizon.net](mailto:lauradysart@verizon.net).



*Calvin Ritter, a nine-month resident of Forest Hill, gets all his neighborhood news from the Forest Hill Flyer. His parents Kelli and Will encourage his love of current events.*

## As Local as it Gets...

**Driven** in our  
pursuit of  
personal and  
professional  
growth



**Respectful** of  
our natural  
environment  
and the people  
we share it with

**Loyal**

to our community, to one another, and to the cause of setting a new  
standard for safety and professionalism in tree care.

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## FOREST HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT PLAQUE ORDER FORM

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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

MOUNTING TYPE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Screw mount is recommended for wood or siding over wood.  
Invisible Mount is recommended for brick and stucco.)

- Make checks payable to the Forest Hill Historic Designation Committee and deliver/mail to Carolyn Paulette, 4312 Forest Hill Ave., Richmond, VA 23225.
- Turnaround should be 4 to 6 weeks depending on meeting minimum orders. Contact Carolyn at **232-6644** 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.



## 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.



# Celebrity Pet— Meet Cosmo

By Cosmo

Why, hello there, friends! When my mom told me there is a celebrity pet section in the community flyer-thingy they read...I knew I had to get in there. As an avid neighborhood patrol dog, I take pride in knowing the comings and goings of the neighbors, even those bikers and kayakers! We seem to have an active community!

I love living next to Reedy Creek so I can walk with my parents (humans call them Eric and Rachel) from Hillcrest Road down to the James River trails. Rock hopping is my favorite! A few times we've even walked all the way to the new T-Pot bridge, over to Brown's Island and back through Belle Isle. What an adventure! Those bridges are a little scary but I'm getting used to them.

Sometimes I try to help clean up the roads and trails by chasing those pesky squirrels and birds but I never quite seem to catch them. I wish I had a retractable leash. Ugh! But most days I enjoy sunbathing in the living room while my parents are out. The best part of the day is when I have a walk with my friends from Canine Adventure. Sometimes they bring other four-legged friends for me to walk with too, sort of a blind-date kind of situation. I always seem to kiss on the first date. It's the greatest! Then, later in the day, I'm sure to be near the window when the mail is delivered. Willie, the mailman, and my parents seem to get along but I'm still a little unsure about him, even if he does give me treats sometimes. I'd do anything for a biscuit or peanut butter bones. Yum!

My parents tell me I was found abandoned in box with some of my brothers and sisters near a Charlottesville highway. Some nice person found us and put an ad up on the internet. I don't remember much of it because I was so little (a wee pup of only six pounds), but in November of 2013 I came to my forever home on Hillcrest Road. It was warm and had a big yard to play in. This October I will be five years old and can't wait to see what kind of new festivals and patios there will be to visit in the community. Forest Hill animals and humans are so friendly, and they have the best trees to sniff too! Hope to see you around RVA!

*Cosmo's humans, Rachel and Eric Kudla, have lived in Forest Hill for eight years. They enjoy the summer weekends at the beach, fall weekends camping, and visiting new cities when possible. Most of all, they love their home base of RVA!*



# Conservation Landscaping at Good Shepherd Episcopal School

By Elizabeth Coleman

Good Shepherd Episcopal School recently received a garden makeover thanks to Meredith Dash of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (ACB) and Bill Shanabruch, proprietor of Reedy Creek Environmental. Following an initial one-bed installation of locally native plants last fall, this spring Meredith and Bill developed a conservation landscaping plan for the border garden beds along the GSES entrance. They did this in collaboration with GSES parents and Virginia Master Naturalist Laura Greenleaf, and with support from GSES administration.

The project began with a stormwater run-off assessment through ACB's RiverWise Schools program and culminated in an April planting of nearly 30 different species of herbaceous plants, grasses and sedges, and shrubs. As part of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's RiverWise Communities initiative, teachers and students learned how locally native plants are vital to the well-being of our neighborhood, watershed, and ecosystem. The RiverWise Communities program aims to develop holistic stormwater management based on natural hydrology that supports ecological biodiversity. Good Shepherd plans to continue conservation efforts within the Forest Hill neighborhood and Reedy Creek watershed.

You can learn more about the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and their RiverWise Communities initiative, and steps you can take at home at [allianceforthebay.org/our-work/key-program-focuses/reducing-stormwater-runoff/riverwise-communities](http://allianceforthebay.org/our-work/key-program-focuses/reducing-stormwater-runoff/riverwise-communities).

The GSES garden native plants were provided by Reedy Creek Environmental (Bill Shanabruch) at [reedycreekenvironmental.wordpress.com](http://reedycreekenvironmental.wordpress.com) and Garden Gate Landscape and Design (Beth Farmer) in Montpelier at [gardengategardener.com](http://gardengategardener.com).

*Elizabeth Coleman is the Director of Admissions at Good Shepherd Episcopal School.*



# Owl Orchard Community Garden: A Plot of Country in the City

By Judith C. Warrington

There's a corner of the neighborhood where a not-so-secret garden flourishes. If you walk down to the end of West 44th street where it dead ends into Reedy Creek, you'll find Owl Orchard Community Garden, a plot of country in the city. It's a garden space with raised vegetable beds, flowers, chickens, fruit trees, a reforestation project, and of course, local wildlife.

The city purchased the property following Hurricane Camille in 1969. Four flood-damaged houses were razed and the property became part of the Reedy Creek Floodplain Project.

Gardeners in this extensively tree-covered neighborhood started taking advantage of the unused open space even before Owl Orchard officially took root.

Approximately seven years ago, the site became a designated City of Richmond Community Garden, part of a city-wide program that serves to improve the quality of life and create a healthy environment for citizens. As part of its sustainability goals, the city's Richmond Grows Gardens project makes idle lots available for community use as garden space through a registration process. James McDonald and several of his neighbors were instrumental in registering 807 West 44th Street as a Community Garden and continue to oversee the property, which has been the site of informal events such as birthday parties, as well as an eclipse viewing party in August 2017.

McDonald, who has lived in the neighborhood for 20-some years, says there are currently three to five households engaged in gardening. (The number of garden plots varies from year to year.) Five or six families care for the chickens, and one family has applied to introduce bee hives into the garden.

Environmental stewardship is evident in the garden. Water for the gardens comes from a catchment system of rain barrels and two well-hidden 250-gallon water storage cubes. A compost pile provides organic fertilizer and chickens work to control insects. And because the property drains into the creek, the caretakers of Owl Orchard, along with the Reedy Creek Coalition and the Richmond Tree Stewards, have planted a buffer zone of

native trees between the garden and the creek to help reduce runoff.

Over the years Owl Orchard has truly become an urban orchard as more fruit trees continue to be planted.

There's also a blueberry hedge! With such good pickings the local wildlife loves the orchard as much as the neighbors do, forcing gardeners to cover their beds with protective netting and the use of tree tubes to protect the young trees from deer damage.

In addition to tomatoes and zucchini, this garden also grows opportunities and awareness. Some weekends teens who need to fulfill a disciplinary community service requirement, and their chaperones, come to the garden to help clean up, mulch, or plant trees.

"I like for them to come down," says McDonald. "Not a lot of these youngsters have gardening experience. To see where their food comes from, to eat stuff straight off the vine, that's a leap for them. Seeing chickens is a new experience!"

Looking toward the future, he would like to see the creek-side trail between Owl Orchard and West 42nd Street improved and maintained so other people can enjoy the creek and visit the garden. He'd also like to one day see the garden expanded down to the creek and additional fruit trees planted there. And, since Owl Orchard is doing its part to reduce sediment going into the creek, he would like to see a trash weir installed and maintained to help catch trash

and debris at this critical point between the channelized section of the creek bed at Westover Hills Boulevard and the lake at Forest Hill Park.

Walk down West 44th Street and visit Owl Orchard Community Garden for yourself or check out their Facebook page. It's a little bit of heaven, and according to James McDonald, "We have the best tree swing in Central Virginia."

*Judith C. Warrington is a long-time Forest Hill resident who is currently battling the squirrels to secure her fig harvest.*





# Keep that Recycling Clean

By Lisa Bedell

Did you know that recycling contamination can affect the viability of your recycling efforts? For example, if a container is tossed into the bin with food particles on it, it can grow mold or attract bugs. This may mean that even though you have made the effort to recycle, those recyclables may be rejected by recycling consumers, the people who buy the city's recyclables.

Recycling contamination can be caused by many things. For example, filling the bin with items that can't be recycled through your local hauler, food particles, and even water! What constitutes contamination in part is dependent upon what can be recycled locally. If your local hauler accepts only paper, plastic, and metal for recycling and you put your glass bottles in the recycling bin, you've contaminated the entire truckload of recycling! By introducing food particles and water into your recycling bin you can jeopardize the quality of paper and cardboard, a major player in the recycling industry. This can lower the quality of a batch of recycling, making it unsuitable for the market.

China's new import policies are just one reason to start focusing on avoiding contamination in our recycling bins. High contamination levels mean recyclables are rejected and don't sell. The new .5 percent contamination requirements set by China are tough, but they are also a wakeup call for recyclers. Today, because of contamination levels, many cities that used to get paid for their recycling are now paying recycling facilities to get rid of it.

So, what can you do to help?

- Be in the know!! Visit our website and find your city to see what recyclables are accepted at [recyclingperks.com/#/serviceAreas](http://recyclingperks.com/#/serviceAreas).
- Give your recyclables a quick rinse to remove food particles.
- Make sure to empty water bottles, dry anything you rinse, and keep paper products separate because wet paper goes to the landfill.
- Don't bundle any of your recyclables in plastic bags which can break down the recycling process.

These simple steps can lead to real progress. Although it is great to adopt all recycling best practices, if you start with these you can make a huge impact on contamination levels.

*Lisa Bedell is the Richmond Area Market Representative for Recycling Perks, a rewards program that promotes participation in curbside recycling. Recycling Perks strives to improve household recycling efforts, reduce waste, and promote local businesses by offering savings and deals that reward recyclers. Participation is free to residents in*



# Music in the Park Continues in September and October

Load up your picnic baskets and grab your chairs! Join your friends and neighbors in Forest Hill Park at the two remaining Music in the Park events for the 2018 season! Cool weather, hot music! Please remember that glass containers and alcohol are not permitted in the city's parks.

**September 9, 5-7 p.m., Mozo (blues)**

**October 2, 5-7 p.m., October 7, Skydog (Allman Brothers tribute)**

Special thanks to Forest Hill, Westover Hills, and Woodland Heights Neighborhood Associations; the office of Kristen N. Larson; Target Marketing; Grow RVA; and the fine folks of the City of Richmond Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities.

## Little Free Library in Forest Hill Park

The Little Free Library in Forest Hill Park was recently given a face lift and new coat of varnish. It's looking good! We restock the library once a week, but it is often empty, so please feel free to bring children's books to donate to the library in the park, and take a book to enjoy while you're there! I'm also happy to collect books for our weekly library fills if you'd rather bring them to a person, just contact Laura Dysart at [lauradysart@verizon.net](mailto:lauradysart@verizon.net).

## Join the Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior

The Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior (FFHPJ) is a group of middle- and high-school students interested in volunteering for our beautiful park. The FFHPJ built and painted the Little Free Library in the park and help stock it. They oversee planning and running the Halloween Howl Dog Parade event held the last Saturday in October that benefits Ring Dog Rescue and Friends of Forest Hill Park. The group also assists with events such as Victorian Christmas with Santa.

The FFHPJ meets monthly in front of the Stone House (weather permitting) on a Saturday to plan events, fill the Little Free Library, monitor the Bluebird Trail, or do a park clean up. A member does not need to attend every meeting or event to stay active—just do what they can. Volunteer hours can be used for school-required community service hours.

If you are interested, know of a student who is interested, or have questions, please contact Laura Dysart at [lauradysart@verizon.net](mailto:lauradysart@verizon.net). She can put you on the email distribution list so that you will be updated on any schedule changes and upcoming events and meetings.

# FHNA Calendar of Fall Events

Tuesday, September 4	Richmond Public Schools open for the 2018-19 session.
Sunday, September 9	Music in the Park, Mozo (blues), 5-7 p.m.
Saturday, September 15	43rd Street Festival of the Arts, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, September 16	Infrastructure Walk, 11 a.m. Meet at the corner of Forest Hill Avenue and Cedar Lane.
Tuesday, September 18	FHNA Membership Meeting, 7 p.m. at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church
Thursday, September 20	Friends of Forest Hill Park membership meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the Stone House.
Saturday, September 22	Forest Hill Walking History Tour, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Enjoy vintage photos of Forest Hill homes and the amusement park. For more info, go to <a href="http://friendsofforesthillpark.org">friendsofforesthillpark.org</a> .
Thursday, September 27	4th District Meeting, 6 p.m., Huguenot Community Center, 7945 Forest Hill Avenue.
Saturday, September 29	Invasive species removal from Forest Hill Park, 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the pyramid across from Brookside Road.
Sunday, October 7	Music in the Park, Skydog (Allman Brothers tribute), 5-7 p.m.
Saturday, October 13	All About Trees, presentation and conversation, 1-3 p.m. Meet at the Stone House. See article on page 3 for more details.
Tuesday, October 16	FHNA Membership Meeting, 7 p.m. at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church
Saturday, October 20	Forest Hill Walking History Tour, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Enjoy vintage photos of Forest Hill homes and the amusement park. For more info, go to <a href="http://friendsofforesthillpark.org">friendsofforesthillpark.org</a> .
Saturday, October 27	Invasive species removal from Forest Hill Park, 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the pyramid across from Brookside Road.
Sunday, October 28	Halloween Howl, 1-3 p.m. Costume contest and treats for humans and doggos alike.
Thursday, November 1	Deadline for information, articles, and advertisements for the Winter issue of the Forest Hill Flyer.
Tuesday, November 6	VOTE!
Tuesday, November 20	FHNA Membership Meeting, 7 p.m. at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church. Vote for your leadership at this meeting.
Friday, November 24	Invasive species removal from Forest Hill Park, 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the pyramid across from Brookside Road.
Thursday, December 6	4th District Meeting, 6 p.m., Huguenot Community Center, 7945 Forest Hill Avenue.
Saturday, December 8	Victorian Christmas, 1-4 p.m. Meet Santa, make crafts, hear stories, and enjoy refreshments.

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

☐ Household Membership \$15    
☐ 2 Years \$25    
☐ Corporate Annual Membership \$30

☐ **Yes**, I want to join the Neighborhood Watch and receive email 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  
ATTN: FHNA Treasurer  
P.O. Box 13201 • 1021 Hloaks Rd.  
Richmond, VA 23225-9995

**FREE**  
**Forest Hill**  
**Pint Glass and Decal**  
**when you join!**



For more information visit [www.foresthillneighborhood.com](http://www.foresthillneighborhood.com)