

The Forest Hill Neighborhood  
Association Newsletter

Spring 2013

**Forest Hill Neighborhood Association meetings  
are held every third Wednesday at 7 p.m. at  
Forest Hill Presbyterian Church - Please Attend!**

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

Published by the Forest Hill  
Neighborhood Association

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# Forest Hill Flyer

## Getting the Garden Ready An Early Spring To-Do

By Viki Atkinson

If you're anything like me, this is the time of year you start getting antsy for warmer weather and little green shoots poking up out of the winter soil. There are plenty of things, however, to keep you busy in the garden while you wait for spring's bountiful blooms to arrive. So here's a list to get you started.

1. **Prune.** Typically, mid-February to mid-March is when you should prune roses and shrubs that bloom on new wood. Roses should be cut back to a third of their height, and dead canes should be removed. Pruning of shrubs will vary, depending both on the plant and whether you simply want to shape the plant or drastically reduce the size. (This is NOT the time to prune spring- and summer-blooming shrubs, like azaleas, hydrangeas, and rhododendrons. These plants set their buds in the autumn, so if you prune them now, you won't have any blooms this spring! Instead, prune them just after they bloom.)
2. **Divide perennials.** Since most plants are just now waking up, this is a perfect time to divide them. If you end up with more plants than you need, share with your neighbors!
3. **Plot out your bulb plantings.** It's not always easy to remember the location of that daffodil clump you want to divide or move after the plants have died back. If you stick a popsicle stick or other marker in the middle of the clumps now, it will be easy to find them next autumn.
4. **Move dormant plants, trees and shrubs.** Plants are still in "hibernation mode" in early spring and are less likely to be stressed by a move.
5. **Add organic matter to garden beds.** Compost and other soil amendments added to your garden beds now will give your plants an early boost.
6. **Weed.** Not all weeds die back during the winter. Get a jump on yours by tackling the ones that overwintered in your beds.
7. **Clean/maintain water features.** Remove dead

leaves and debris, check for liner leaks, and consider new water plants.

8. **Clean and sharpen garden tools.** Before your gardening goes into high gear, pull out your tools and find someone who can sharpen the whole bunch (or do it yourself if you know how). Then get out the soap and water and disinfectant to wipe away any traces of plant diseases that might have lingered on the blades.

9. **Clean up your shed or potting area.** Places like Lowe's now recycle plastic plant pots, so gather yours up and drop them off next time you're there. If you have too many hand tools or rakes for one person to use, consider donating the extras to a school or community garden.

10. **Enjoy.** Take pleasure in the greening of your garden and the neighborhood. This is one of my favorite times of year, when the wisps of green and pops of color herald the turning from winter to spring.

*Viki Atkinson, who has lived in Forest Hill since December 2007, will be returning to her home state of North Carolina at the end of March. She will miss her friends and neighbors in Forest Hill very much and wishes she could take the entire neighborhood with her to Raleigh!*

Save the date!

# Run for the Hills!



Forest Hill

Runners, Walkers, Joggers, Strollers  
and Canine-types are invited to join  
this Fun Run in Forest Hill Park.  
For more information visit  
[www.foresthillneighborhood.com](http://www.foresthillneighborhood.com)

**SATURDAY: 9AM**  
**MARCH 9**

# The President's Message



By Shannon D. Taylor

Happy New Year! As 2013 kicks off, I look forward to a fun and prosperous year for the neighborhood. I'm excited to be more involved with the association and am bursting with ideas to make Forest Hill an even more rewarding place to live. Given this is the season for making resolutions, I thought why not

make some for the association? Publishing these resolutions is great motivation to get 'er done! So without further delay...my 2013 Forest Hill resolutions are:

1. Increase benefits for your membership.
2. Showcase our fun activities, such as Music in the Park, 5K Race, Gardening Club, and Wine Club.
3. Increase membership and attendance at association meetings and events.

One of the reasons why this neighborhood is so amazing is our diverse and talented pool of residents. If you are a regular visitor to the Forest Hill Facebook page (yes there is one—search for "Forest Hill Neighborhood") or the "chat" room on our website, you'll notice many neighbors asking for recommendations for everything from plumbers and carpenters to dog walkers and doctors. To make this process easier for you, the association created a BUSINESS DIRECTORY for residents who own businesses, provide services, or who have talents they wish to share with neighbors. Consider it an added perk of joining the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association—you highlight your talents and skills, then your neighbors have the option of "shopping locally." So, if you own or work for a company in the neighborhood, or you are an entrepreneur providing services such as babysitting, grass cutting, carpentry, real estate, plumbing, electrical, or selling crafts, you may want to participate in the Business Directory. If so, simply do two things: (1) become a FHNA member if you aren't already, and (2) visit [www.foresthillneighborhood.com](http://www.foresthillneighborhood.com) to submit your name, company name/service, brief description of your company or service, and preferred contact information. The directory will soon be available on our website and paper copies will be on hand at our association meetings.

Not yet a member? No problem! You can join online, at an association meeting, or by mailing a check to the address listed on the application form in this edition of the Forest Hill Flyer. Visit [www.foresthillneighborhood.com/join.html](http://www.foresthillneighborhood.com/join.html) for online memberships and use the PayPal account. Keep checking online as we will unveil our updated website in the upcoming weeks. A huge thank you goes to Sue Cline, a long-time resident of Forest Hill, who has graciously taken over management of the website from Phil Licking. As many of us increasingly rely on the internet for communication and information, Phil's and Sue's donated time and energy to maintaining the website and keeping us up-to-date on

neighborhood events is greatly appreciated.

If you want a good dose of old-fashioned neighborly interaction, we'd love to see you at the next Forest Hill Neighborhood Association meeting on March 20, 2013. We now meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church. (This is a change from last year.) As an incentive for you to attend our meetings, we are offering FREE BABY-SITTING services! Don't let the little ones prevent you from coming to meetings and getting involved. Beginning at our March 20 meeting, we will have a babysitter (most likely one who works at the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church daycare facility) to watch your children in the upstairs nursery. This is a new venture for us and we'll see how it well it works for the March 20, April 17, and May 15 meetings. I'm hopeful it will encourage you and your families to meet more neighbors, participate in association events, and voice your opinions on issues impacting our neighborhood.

Additionally, we are resurrecting an old tradition of featuring guest speakers at our meetings. Topics will range from historical notes about the neighborhood to home repair tutorials and managing finances. Our featured guest for the March 20 meeting will be Dr. Charles Williams, a retired medical doctor who grew up in and has lived his life in Richmond. He will be joined by Kitty Snow, author of *From a Richmond Streetcar*, who recently brought her great-grandfather's treasury of old photographs of Richmond to present at a FHNA meeting. Dr. Williams will talk about his memories of South Richmond and Forest Hill as Ms. Snow shares her photographs. And at 96 years young, Dr. Williams will have some fascinating tales to tell!

At the May 15, 2013 meeting of the FHNA, we will welcome Jennie Dotts from Old House Authority. She will discuss the Old House Diaries, a digital preservation project for old Richmond homes ([www.oldhouseauthority.com/Home/OldHouseDiaries](http://www.oldhouseauthority.com/Home/OldHouseDiaries)). Check the Forest Hill Neighborhood website for information on future speakers.

Interested in saving money? Sign up for a COUPON CLASS on Tuesday, March 19, 2013, from 6-8 p.m. at the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church. Tiffany Cutts, a local blogger ([www.youngandfrugalnva.blogspot.com](http://www.youngandfrugalnva.blogspot.com)), will share tips and advice on how couponing can save you and your family money each time you shop. The class is free for association members and \$5 for non-members. After the class we will have a "coupon swap," so bring extra coupons that you don't need and exchange them for ones that you like! Space is limited so sign up by emailing me at [foresthillsafety@hotmail.com](mailto:foresthillsafety@hotmail.com).

If you have suggestions for featured speakers or neighborhood events, let us know by contacting a board member or attending our next meeting. Other ideas to make my Forest Hill resolutions come true will be revealed throughout the year, so please continue visiting our website at [www.foresthillneighborhood.com](http://www.foresthillneighborhood.com), reading the Forest Hill Flyer, and contacting board members for information. I look forward to seeing you around in the neighborhood!

*Shannon D. Taylor is the president of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association for 2013-2014. She has been on the executive board for years, focusing on neighborhood safety. Her email is [foresthillsafety@hotmail.com](mailto:foresthillsafety@hotmail.com).*

# From Our Council Representative

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you all are well!

The weather has been quite a rollercoaster with the warm and cold temperatures. I hope everyone is staying healthy.

Leaf collection has been a challenge with the weather this season. An early pick-up that was cut short by the weather left a few gaps in service which were filled over the last month. The city is planning another round of leaf collection starting in March. Overall, the feedback from you regarding leaf collection was positive.

Check out the city's "Snow Plow Tracker" application at [www.richmondgov.com/PublicWorks/SnowRemoval.aspx](http://www.richmondgov.com/PublicWorks/SnowRemoval.aspx). "Snow Plow Tracker" is maintained by the city's Department of Public Works and is updated through radio reports from the plow drivers and supervisors.

If you have bulk items to be picked up, please call 3-1-1 or log onto [www.richmondgov.com/mpact/](http://www.richmondgov.com/mpact/) to request a pick up.

Applications for Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled are available through March. The deadline for filing the applications is April 1, 2013. You can find the application at the city's Finance Department site at [www.richmondgov.com/Finance/index.aspx](http://www.richmondgov.com/Finance/index.aspx), or by calling 3-1-1 or my district office.

With that in mind, Senior Connections provides community services, information and referral, education and advocacy for seniors, persons with disabilities, caregivers and families residing in the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover,

Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan and the City of Richmond. Contact them at 800-989-2286 or go to

[www.seniorconnections-va.org](http://www.seniorconnections-va.org)

Richmond Boys Choir is recruiting boys between the ages of seven and 17 who have earned a 2.0 GPA or better. The Richmond Boys Choir focuses on their members' personal, academic and musical excellence. RBC welcomes members from all socio-economic, religious and cultural backgrounds. An audition is required to determine vocal range and skill. Please contact Craig A. Matthews at 804-651-0096 or [artisticdirector@richmondboyschoir.org](mailto:artisticdirector@richmondboyschoir.org).

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.



*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.*

## Forest Hill Neighborhood Association 2013-2014

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

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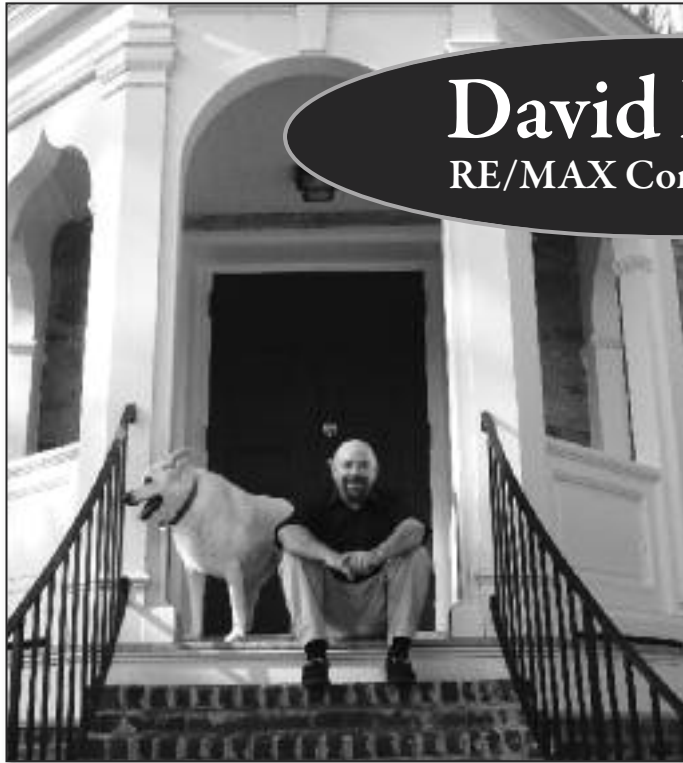
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**GALLERY HOURS:** Tues-Thurs 10am-6pm; Fri-Sat 10am-4pm

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## Holy Week Schedule at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church

The Forest Hill Presbyterian Church would like to invite all its neighbors and friends to join them for Holy Week Services. All are welcome.

**Palm Sunday:** Worship of God, March 24, 10:30 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday Communion:** March 28, 7 p.m.

**Good Friday:** Noon Meditation, March 29

**Easter Day:** March 31

Outdoor Worship on the lawn, 7:30 a.m.

Free Breakfast (RSVP to 233-4371), 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Easter Day Worship, Rev. Keith Johnston, Pastor, 10:30 a.m.

# Celebrity Pet – Nike the Pen Pal

By Grace LeRose

**What is your name and the name of your human?** My name is Nike. I am three years old and I live with Grace LeRose.

**Where and when did you find your home?** I have had a bit of journey to get where I am right now! I was a shelter dog from Charlottesville who joined the Pen Pals program with Fetch-a-Cure. The program puts shelter dogs and inmates together. The inmates live with the dogs and train them to earn the Good Canine Citizenship certificate. I was adopted by a family in Charlottesville and stayed with them almost a year, but they couldn't keep me because of divorce. (Divorce affects children AND pets sometimes!) So I went back to prison for a little while. But then Grace found me and brought me to Forest Hill!

**What's your heritage?** I look like a hound mix, but I howl like a beagle!

**What is your favorite activity?** I love to play keep-away, chase and wrestle with other dogs. I can destroy an "indestructible" toy in less than 10 minutes! I also am extremely fond of lying on the back of the sofa and watching out the window like a cat—I howl when my neighbor takes his trash out! I like everyone I meet and hope to play with all the dogs and get petted (or get a treat!) from all the humans I meet.

**What is your best trick?** Not sure if this is a "best" trick—but I can bite my own nails—and do.

**What are your best traits?** I am a real cuddler—I love nothing more than to crawl into a lap and curl up with my humans. I am a friendly, happy fellow who would be glad to say "hello!" to YOU next time we meet.



**What else would you like your admirers to know?** Shelter dogs that are older than puppies are a bonus. They have been given some training and are usually housebroken, walk on a leash and understand basic commands. Plus they are so happy and grateful to be with people! Take a chance on an older dog next time. While you may not be as lucky as Grace was, you will certainly be a champion in my eyes!

*Nike's adoptive mother, Grace LeRose, has lived in Forest Hill for almost 200 dog years. She is a former president of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association and when she isn't walking Nike here or at the river, she likes to work in her yard.*

*Editor's Note: Fetch a Cure's program, Pen Pals, is a unique partnership between Pen Pals and the Virginia Department of Corrections, designed to lower the rate of euthanasia in Virginia's public shelters; provide job skills to inmates; promote the rehabilitation of inmates; provide well-trained dogs for adoption; and help promote a correctional center environment of less tension while improving communication between the correctional center staff and inmates. To read more about the program and see dogs up for adoption, visit [www.fetchacure.com](http://www.fetchacure.com).*

## We Want Your Ideas!

In the Forest Hill Flyer, we want to highlight everything that is unique, inspiring, and wonderful about our Forest Hill neighborhood and the people who live here. Is your blog going gangbusters? Does your pet hound you for a profile in our Celebrity Pet column? Did your parents (or do you) run a business in the neighborhood? Let us know. We'd love to talk with you!

Does your neighbor go to work each day at a fascinating job? Is the house next door haunted? Do you have old photos of you and your little brother playing in Forest Hill Park? If so, shoot us an email. We will be delighted to hear from you. (And it doesn't mean you have to write anything!)

Please send any ideas and suggestions to [foresthillflyer@gmail.com](mailto:foresthillflyer@gmail.com).

# The Parkside Café Serves Up Some Richmond History

By Judith Warrington

Little pieces of Richmond's past make a tasty gumbo of the décor in a local restaurant whose gumbo is pretty good, too! Forest Hill resident, restaurant owner and chef Brian Munford puts his individual touch on the meals at his Parkside Café. But the next time you're there, put down that sweet potato biscuit long enough to look around at the interior. There are a lot of fresh local ingredients used there as well.

"It was roughly two years from putting down the deposit to opening," said Brian, who did a lot of the renovation work himself. It turns out that he was as passionate about the décor of his new his restaurant as he was about the food he would serve there.

Scavenged from local salvage and antique shops, and even from under the building's floorboards, diverse items give diners a little taste of the city's past. Look over the doorway between the dining rooms. The iron corbels came from Landmark Salvage just down Semmes Avenue. Be sure to look up. The tin ceiling is original to the building and has been lovingly restored. Now look down. Your black slate tabletop was once a coal fireplace surround from a home in the Fan. The paneling on the booths is made from reclaimed pecky cypress found on Craigslist.

And while it's easy to picture the big zodiac globe lamp hanging in a public building like a 1920s movie palace or a city train station, Brian says it's a new piece. He found it at an antique store in Athens, Georgia. After several years of asking about it, he got the owner to come down on the price and now it's the focal point of the dining room.

One of Brian's biggest discoveries came during the building's transformation from the Seven Hills Market to the restaurant. While redoing the floors he found evidence of the former shoe repair shop that the building once housed. A hole had been cut into floor and below it there were layers upon layers of finely shaved leather, trimmings from the countless soles and heels that were replaced by the former cobblers over the past four or more decades.

Under the floorboards he also found the perfectly preserved Richmond newspapers that are now framed in the front dining room, as well as the colorful lithograph poster advertising an

appearance by the Harlem Globe Trotters which hangs in the men's restroom.

Perhaps Brian's most personal contribution to the Parkside's interior is the reception stand by the front door. Next time you're there, take a few minutes to admire the supporting ironwork done by one of Brian's friends in this garage workshop. The stand's irregular wooden base is actually a small portion of what must have been an enormous cypress trunk circle. Brian found it while canoeing on the Blackwater River near where it meets the Nottoway.

If you're hungry for more details, or just hungry, visit the Parkside Café. And when you ask what's on the menu, also ask about what's on the walls.

*Judith Warrington is a local freelance writer who has a house full of "recycled" stuff herself.*

## Join the Forest Hill Neighborhood Business Directory

**Are you a FHNA member and work for or own a business?**

**Do you sell crafts, baby-sit, cut grass or engage in an entrepreneurial endeavor?**

**It's never been easier to list your business!**

The directory will contain names, descriptions and contact information for current members who live in Forest Hill. Simply visit our website and click on JOIN. Enter your information and hit SUBMIT. The directory will be available on this website and a printed directory will be available at the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association meetings!

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# Know Your Neighbor—Sue Cline

By Shannon D. Taylor

You might have seen her walking her dogs, Windsor and Lindsey, through the neighborhood, or attempting to successfully jaunt across Forest Hill Avenue. You might have seen her waiting for a GRTC bus as she utilizes lines 63, 70, and 71 to move from place to place. You may have seen her admiring a garden as she strolls through the streets and alleys of Forest Hill.

You also might know her from seeing her at the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association meetings or at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church. And if you have ever visited the Forest Hill Neighborhood website, you're looking at one of her many projects!

That is Sue Cline—a self-described chameleon. She has lived in the neighborhood since 1995 and calls it her home base even during out-of-state stints. Her chameleon nature has led her to explore a number of different occupations. She currently owns Cyclonic Consulting, Inc. which assists startup businesses in the technology and manufacturing sector. In fact, Sue volunteered to take over the neighborhood website after longtime caretaker Phil Licking was ready to let someone else take the reins. This past year, Sue developed a new platform for the website, which will be unveiled in a couple of months. Sue has also kept busy starting a new venture with Good Shepherd Episcopal School to roll out a farm-to-cafeteria lunch program.

Sue's career path, however, did not begin in the technology or farm fields. She first started out as a stage lighting designer,

but was swayed by the excitement of working at Kinko's as a branch turnaround specialist, a job she did for almost 20 years. True to chameleon form, Sue "retired" and opened a restaurant in Lewes, Delaware. Upon selling the restaurant and "retiring" a second time, Sue found herself working in software development, leading to her current positions.

Originally hailing from Chicago, Sue's career passport would include stamps from Chicago; New York City; Champaign, Illinois; Burlington, Vermont; Cambridge, Massachusetts; Richmond; Lewes; Atlanta; and Tampa. Phew! When not walking her dogs, Sue enjoys authentic Mexican food, baking, cooking, reading, gardening, computers and making meaningful things. She also is active in the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association. She would love to see the traffic calmed on Forest Hill Avenue and more neighbors join and participate in the neighborhood association events and activities. Sue understands that, "it's a commitment, but a strong association has the ability to effect positive changes like traffic calming and improving the value of our homes."

*Shannon Taylor confesses to having a strange obsession with stationery, wrapping paper and ribbon.*



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## City to Enforce Ordinance Designating Times for Supercan Placement

City residents will need to pay strict attention to the time they put out their Supercan, as well as the time they remove it from the city right-of-way. Beginning March 11, 2013 in accordance with a City Ordinance, residents and property owners will be subject to monetary fines for leaving their Supercans out too long.

City Code Section 86-44 stipulates that Supercans and recycling bins should not be placed out earlier than 4 p.m. on the day before collection. They must be removed from the right-of-way by 7 a.m. the day after collection. The city right-of-way includes sidewalks, alleys and median strips between sidewalks and roadways.

"The right-of-way is part of a natural corridor contributing to the aesthetic quality and value of our neighborhoods. Removal of our refuse and recycling receptacles after service returns this area to its natural state, providing pedestrian, cycling and vehicular passage in our communities," said James Jackson, Director, Department of Public Works.

For the first violation of the ordinance, the property owner or utility account holder (if they are not the same person) will receive a violation notification sticker on their Supercan. The violator will also receive a letter notifying them of the infringement. Following notification, violators will be penalized \$50 per day for each calendar day the can is not removed, starting the day following the last collection. For example, if trash is collected on Tuesday and the can is still out after 7 a.m. Wednesday, a sticker will be placed on it and a letter will be sent. If the resident is still non-compliant as of the date of the letter the fine will be retroactive back to the first day of the violation. For residents who place out more than one Supercan, a separate \$50 per day fee will be imposed for each can. The fines will be added to the monthly utility statement.

Each residence can have up to four Supercans with the city providing one can free of charge. Residents who need additional cans may purchase them for \$55 each by calling Customer Care at 3-1-1 or 646-7000. For more information on city services and schedules, please visit [www.RichmondGov.com](http://www.RichmondGov.com).

### Woodland Heights Baptist Church

611 West 31<sup>st</sup> Street



*One in Worship...Many in Service*

We have an opening for a part-time Choir Director to lead our adult and youth choirs, and coordinate our children's choir. Interested candidates with previous experience should contact the church office at 233-2222 or contact [whbsearch@gmail.com](mailto:whbsearch@gmail.com).

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# Get More, Save More Couponing as a Way of Life

By Linda Mills

Tiffany Cutts grew up in Frederick, Maryland, the oldest of three sisters. That meant she got stuck with a lot of chores. But when you think "chores," don't think of doing dishes or feeding the dog.

"When I was in elementary school, my mom would put check marks on the coupons she wanted cut out and I would have to help her every Sunday clip and file the coupons."

As she got older, Tiffany's job helping with the coupons expanded into shopping and calculating prices. Her mom used it as a teaching tool.

"My mom would say, 'If this product is on sale for \$3.50 and I have a 35 cent coupon that doubles, how much will the item cost?' I would have to figure it out in my head!"

Once she could drive, Tiffany's responsibility grew even more. In order to be allowed to drive the car or go to the mall or basketball games on Friday nights, she would have to go grocery shopping. "My mom would wake me up a 7 a.m. every Sunday with her list and coupons ready for me!"

After such a childhood, one might think that Tiffany would decide to let coupons remain unclipped every week or go wild buying cereal that's not on sale. But nothing could be further from the truth. When she moved to Richmond to attend VCU, couponing helped her make ends meet as she went to school full time and worked two part-time jobs. Now that she has graduated and has a career as a probation officer for the County of Henrico, she says, "Coupons continue to help me now that I have student loans to repay."

Coupons have assisted her so much, in fact, that in 2009 she started a website with couponing advice, as well as the coupons themselves, called Young and Frugal in Virginia. ([youngandfrugalinvirginia.blogspot.com](http://youngandfrugalinvirginia.blogspot.com).) Her site was such a success that she fielded dozens of emails each day from people who didn't know where to start, or who loved her site but still felt overwhelmed. She so enjoys hearing from people and answering their questions that the next logical step was teaching classes!

In Tiffany's classes, participants can expect to learn the basics of couponing. They will learn why they should coupon, the best places to get coupons, how to organize all those little bits of paper, and the most efficient ways to save at our local stores.

"Couponing is worth it," Tiffany says. "People just starting out can expect to save 25-35 percent. Once you get into couponing, expect savings to go up! In this economy, many people are struggling paycheck to paycheck. My goal is to help people save."

*Linda Mills cuts coupons every Sunday, but does NOT shop at 7 a.m. Ever.*



*Photo by Kim Lee Photography*

**The Forest Hill Neighborhood  
Association is sponsoring a  
couponing class taught by  
Tiffany Cutts. Please join us!**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2013  
6 p.m.**

**Forest Hill Presbyterian Church  
4401 Forest Hill Avenue**

To sign up for the class, or for more information,  
contact Shannon Taylor at [foresthillsafety@hotmail.com](mailto:foresthillsafety@hotmail.com).

Please register for the class by Friday, March 15.

Space is limited.

The class will last about an hour, followed by a coupon swap. (Bring extra coupons you don't want or need and exchange them for coupons other people bring.) The class is FREE to members of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association.

Non-members will need to pay \$5 at the door. If you live in the neighborhood and would like to join the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association, please contact Shannon by Friday, March 15.

## FOREST HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT PLAQUE ORDER FORM

PLEASE PRINT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Invisible Mount is recommended for brick and stucco.)

- Make checks payable to the Forest Hill Historic Designation Committee and deliver/mail to Carolyn Paulette, 4312 Forest Hill Ave., Richmond, VA 23225.
- Turnaround should be 4 to 6 weeks depending on meeting minimum orders. Contact Carolyn at 232-6644 or [cmp4312@yahoo.com](mailto:cmp4312@yahoo.com) with questions.
- We would like to verify the construction date for your property with you before we have it engraved on your plaque. We will use the date that the city tax records provide or the date our research provides unless you have other documentation.
- The next order for plaques will be sent in on March 15, 2013. Get your order in today!

## Get Your Forest Hill Historic District Plaque

Look for the Forest Hill Historic District plaques on houses in the neighborhood 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.



Are you  
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this?



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Today!**





# Community Supper at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

Come join us Friday, March 15 from 6-8 p.m. for an evening of incredible food and great conversation. The menu includes fresh marinara sauce lovingly created by Sue Cline from delicious ingredients purchased at the South of the James Winter Market. The dinner will also include home-made bread and fabulous desserts.

The cost is just \$5 per person or \$16 for a family of four. Our Forest Hill neighbors are always welcome and encouraged to join us! Proceeds benefit Good Shepherd Episcopal School and Church. Help spread the word by inviting neighbors and friends.

# Housing Market Looking Up in the Neighborhood

By Dan Hunt

In 2012, the real estate business had a much better year, particularly in our area. Decreasing prices either have slowed or come to a halt altogether. Buyers are realizing the value inherent in buying now with low prices and incredibly low interest rates. Sellers have come to realize that if they want to sell and move on, they can benefit on the buying side, provided they stay in their next home for a good period of time.

We have largely escaped the foreclosure mess in our area. There have been a few here and there, but not enough to impact values like other parts of the region.

Personally, I had the busiest January in six years! Our character-laden neighborhood will always be sought after by a variety of buyers. Here's to 2013!

*Dan Hunt has lived and helped neighbors buy and sell houses in Forest Hill for many years. He is an associate broker at One South Realty Group, [dan.hunt@onesouthrealty.com](mailto:dan.hunt@onesouthrealty.com).*

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## Forest Hill Park has a Bluebird Trail

A total of eight bluebird boxes were erected at various sites around Forest Hill Park in the fall. Bluebirds could start arriving as early as March and Friends of Forest Hill Park is looking for volunteers to help monitor the boxes during the season to check for nesting birds.

The monitoring season begins in March, and the boxes will be checked once a week through August. The park's bluebird trail is small, so monitoring it should not take long to complete. If you'd like to help with monitoring the boxes throughout the summer, please contact Robin Ruth at [robin.ruth@verizon.net](mailto:robin.ruth@verizon.net).



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



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# Westover Hills Elementary Students' Dedication Speaks Well of the School

By Bryce Lyle

Twenty-five enthusiastic young poets from all six grade levels at Westover Hills Elementary School prepared and practiced for the 23rd Annual Delta Oratorical Contest which was held on February 2, 2013. A team of teachers including Tammy Blackstone (5th grade), Jennifer Maess (reading), and Thea Paul (media specialist), worked with these students as they memorized poems and prepared to perform them before a panel of judges.

The Delta Oratorical Contest is sponsored by the Richmond Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and is geared toward all Richmond-area students from elementary through high school. The contest is designed to publicly display students' poetry, prose, and spoken-word talents during a showcase presentation. Mrs. Blackstone first got involved with the contest about ten years ago when her son (now 15) was in kindergarten at Westover Hills Elementary School. His original poem won first place that year and she saw how much the contest had been a benefit to her son. Mrs. Blackstone now seeks to bring this opportunity to her students each year.

Ms. Maess works with students to find the perfect poem for their performance—poems that speak to them. "Mrs. Blackstone is an incredibly talented writer," says Ms. Maess, "and many students like to read her poems and use them to compose their own poems." This year Ms. Maess took special pride in a performance by one of her most fun-loving students who recited a poem titled *My Clothes Don't Fit Right*. Another high point of the day was a student's playfully sarcastic performance of the poem *Homework, I Love You*.

Students work hard as they prepare for the event. They are encouraged to make their poems "come to life" through the use of hand gestures, articulation, clarity, originality, timing, delivery, interpretation, props, and even "dressing the part." Students are

expected to practice their poems at home each day and work with their teachers at weekly practices.

"I loved being a part of the Delta Oratorical Contest," says Tonaë, a fifth-grade scholar roll student. "It was a great experience and the judges were nice and fair." This year Tonaë performed her own original poem, *Things I Like*.

Tonaë plans to continue participating in the contest all the way through high school and already has an eye on her future. "I know the sorority offers scholarship opportunities and maybe this will help me get into the college of my choice after I graduate," she says.

And based on how successful the group was at the contest, many more students might aim for scholarships as a goal. Overall the school and its students can celebrate one first-place winner, two second-place winners, and four third-place winners! Westover Hills Elementary also won second place for the greatest number of participants entered in the contest. But it's not all about winning, as students reap many benefits win or lose. As Mrs. Blackstone observes, "They are always so happy that they took part in the contest even if they did not win."

Ms. Maess notes that students gain real-life skills from the contest. "So many students are shy and self-conscious and this contest helps them build their confidence and public speaking skills," she says. And, of course, everyone enjoys the pizza-party celebration after the contest!

*Bryce Lyle is a neighborhood parent who volunteers as neighborhood liaison for Westover Hills Elementary. Contact him at: brycelyle@gmail.com*

## Turn Your Trash Into Cash!

### Forest Hill Neighborhood Yard Sale

**Saturday • June 1<sup>st</sup> • 8am-noon**

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

For Forest Hill Association members its **FREE**. For Non-Members the cost is just \$15 per household for the membership, but the deadline to sign up is May 23rd.

**For Sign Up or Questions contact Dorna Braswell at [foresthillassoc@gmail.com](mailto:foresthillassoc@gmail.com)**

Donuts and Coffee will be sold the day of the event by Good Shepherd Episcopal School. Pre-Orders accepted, see article for more information.

**Visit [www.foresthillneighborhood.com](http://www.foresthillneighborhood.com) for more information.**





# How Much Do You Know About Forest Hill Park?

1. What kind of bird species might one observe in Forest Hill Park?
  - a. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-billed Gull
  - b. American Black Duck, Mallard, Mourning Dove
  - c. Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker
  - d. All of the above
2. What is the source of water for Forest Hill Lake?
  - a. James River
  - b. Reedy Creek
  - c. Chesapeake Bay
  - d. All of the above
3. Which of the following activities are allowed at Forest Hill Lake?
  - a. Catch and release fishing
  - b. Boating
  - c. Enjoying the native flora such as Pickerelweed and other native aquatic plants
  - d. All of the above
4. What do the volunteers of Friends of Forest Hill Park do?
  - a. Clear debris after storms
  - b. Plant new trees
  - c. Cut new trails
  - d. All of the above
5. What was the name of the estate Holden Rhodes (1799-1857), noted jurist and first president of Richmond and Petersburg Railroad, purchased in the neighborhood?
  - a. Dunston
  - b. Boscobel
  - c. Rhodesville
  - d. All of the above



Photo by David Mills

*Answers to Trivia Questions: 1. d, 2. b, 3. d, 4. d, 5. b.*

**March**  
**20th 7PM**  
at Forest Hill  
Presbyterian Church



FHNA  
**March Meeting**  
*and bring the kids, too!*

Let our babysitters entertain the little ones, while we share with you the many upcoming neighborhood events and happenings in Forest Hill. It's an exciting year and we want your family to be a big part of it!



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# Register Now for the Forest Hill 5K

Registration is open for the 2013 Run for the Hills Forest Hill 5K. The fun run will take place on Saturday, March 9 beginning at 9 a.m.

This is our fifth annual 5k and it is a huge hit throughout the neighborhood.

"Craig and I participated in the Forest Hill 5K last year," says Susan Curwood of West 43rd Street. "It was shortly after our second son was born so we were still a bit sleep deprived. We walked and strolled both of our boys for most of the way. It was a great opportunity to get some fresh air and exercise. It was

also fun to tour the neighborhood and chat with many of our neighbors."

Don't miss this great opportunity to be a part of a fun run (or walk or stroll.) As with the 2012 run, we are using a trusted partner, RaceIt! to handle our online registration. Please check the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association website to register. Day of event registration is available.

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## Local History and Photographs Promise to Make the March 20 Meeting a Success!

Our featured guest for the March 20 meeting of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association will be Dr. Charles Williams, a retired medical doctor who grew up in South Richmond and has lived here all his life. He will be joined by Kitty Snow, author of From a Richmond Streetcar. Dr. Williams will talk about his memories of South Richmond and Forest Hill as Ms. Snow shares her great-grandfather's photographs. At 96 years young, you can be sure Dr. Williams will have some fascinating tales to tell about our neighborhood! Join us!

## The South of the James Market Opens on Saturday, May 4, 2013. Get your basket ready!

# Music In The Park

Forest Hill Park

Mark your calendars!  
Grab the entire family and  
enjoy some tunes on the hill.

May 12th • 6-8 pm

June 9th • 6-8 pm

July 7th • 6-8 pm

August 18th • 6-8 pm

September 8th • 5-7 pm

October 6th • 5-7 pm



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**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.

Pay online at [www.foresthillneighborhood.com](http://www.foresthillneighborhood.com)  
or by check made payable to  
Forest Hill Neighborhood Association  
ATTN: Zac Sheldon, FHNA Treasurer  
4114 Springhill Ave  
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For more information visit [www.foresthillneighborhood.com](http://www.foresthillneighborhood.com)

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