



www.foresthillneighborhood.com

THE FOREST HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

INSIDE

Spring 2008

Bird Count
in the Park
page 11



Spring Cleaning at the Lake

Every semester VCU geography students do trash pickup in and around Reedy Creek. Sunday, March 9, was their fourth cleanup day and Forest Hill Park was chosen for that particular outing. Katie Carney (12), pictured above with her father, Bruce, is not (yet) a college student but pitched in to help. Katie is a student at Good Shepherd Episcopal School.

According to Tammy Parece, the VCU representative who organized the day's activities, the geography students are required to do 15-20 hours of cleanup activity each semester as part of a service-learning course. They do the cleanup and then write essays about their experience, tying the experience to the content of their geography course.

On that Sunday, Parece reported the group accumulated about 18 bags of trash and 3 tires. "The tires were a surprise. We usually find them farther upstream," she commented.

Anyone interested in volunteering for future cleanup projects can email Tammy: parecete@vcu.edu. Photo: Brent Tennefoss

Farmer's Market Coming

The numbers are in from Council Member Kathy Graziano's poll, and the results are clear. People overwhelmingly want a farm market in our area. In response, it looks likely that we will have a farm market in operation this year.

The South of the James market, as it will be called, will bring the same expertise and contacts that have made the Byrd House farm market a success.

The market is scheduled for Saturday mornings, from 8 to noon, and will start the first week in May. It will be located at the end of New Kent Avenue and 42nd Street, at Shelter 2 in Forest Hill Park.

It is estimated more than a dozen vendors of fresh, locally grown produce will be participating, including Amy Hicks from Amy's Garden, and Carol the flower lady from the Byrd House and the Thursday 17th Street Market. In addition, some growers who participate in Community Supported Agriculture will use the market as a delivery point for community partners.

The market is not associated with the city government. The vendor is renting space from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities. Although it has not been announced, it is understood that Fourth District Council Member Kathy Graziano paid for the rental space with personal funds.

Third House Tour Springs into Fall

Who says a house tour has to be in the spring? The third annual Forest Hill House Tour is scheduled for Sunday, September 21, at the start of one of the prettiest seasons in our neighborhood.

Rather than contend with the glut of spring house and garden events, the House Tour committee made the savvy decision that Forest Hill would corner the fall house tour market. And with eight fabulous houses already confirmed at press time, it's shaping up to be another

outstanding tour!

Committee co-chair John Hawthorne elaborates on the bold season switch. "The neighborhood buzz built up

by the summer Music in the Park series and the 43rd Street Festival, which takes place the weekend before the

continued on Page 2

Crosland Withdraws Amended SUP

By Carolyn Paulette
FLYER Correspondent

Opponents of the high-density housing units planned by the developer, Crosland, to be located on 2.7 acres at the south end of Lee Bridge, may live to fight another day. The original plan

that was submitted in 2006, which had support from the Springhill neighborhood, was amended from an upscale condominium facility to a mixture of smaller rental units.

The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association
continued on Page 9

Grace Notes

Our Neighborhood Viewed from a Long-Term Perspective

by Grace LeRose, FHNA President

Change is in the air, from the national elections, to our City skyline, to the green buds of the daylilies poking through the earth in my yard. Our neighborhood too is experiencing change – a rebirth perhaps. I see it in every baby carriage that passes me on the street. I see it in every new business that opens on Forest Hill Ave. Spring is a reminder of the promise of what is to come – flowers, sunny days at the River, coffee with friends at a sidewalk table.

As I begin my year as President of the Association, I have to give thanks to my predecessors who did such a fabulous job of re-invigorating the Association: Susan Winiecki and Phil Licking. They believed our neighborhood had what it took to have a viable, active Association – and with much hard work (and lots of other people helping) here we are. An organization like ours is wholly dependent on its volunteers – and we have some of the most enthusiastic and hard-working folks around.

We have been busy at the FHNA planning a great year for the residents of Forest Hill. The Social Committee, headed by

I see change ... in every baby carriage ...

Bernard Casey, has planned an expanded series of the very popular "Music in the Park" concerts in Forest Hill Park. The concerts will begin in May and run through October. This event is supported by our neighbors in Westover Hills and Woodland Heights and represents a cooperative effort to bring great music in a great setting. And it's free! I can't think of a better way to spend a few hours on a Sunday night in the summer than listening to some fantastic music with a few friends in the Park. Look for me there – I'll be under the shade of the trees in my pop up chair.

Liz and John Hawthorne are heading up the House Tour committee, working on bringing another great tour of the houses we all love in the neighborhood. This will be our third tour and is a very successful fundraising event for the Association. We have moved the date from April to September to take advantage of a more open calendar in the fall and to use the 43rd St. Festival to market our neighborhood.

Previous years profits have supported improvements to the neighborhood such as the new historic replica of the Forest Hill Park sign, a trail machine to maintain the multi-use trails in James River Park, and improvements to our dog park, Phideaux Field. Your participation and support of this popular event has made all of that possible. I love the chance to get into some of the great houses in the neighborhood – small cottages to great big colonials – they are the soul of why we love this place.

There are lots more events planned for the year ahead. Check out our fabulous web site to get a calendar of what's coming. I encourage you to come to an Association meeting, held at the Presbyterian Church at 44th and Forest Hill Ave. every month on the second Wednesday at 7:00 pm. We try to keep the meetings informative, but concise. If you would like to volunteer on any committee, or would just like to help out anytime, shoot me an email at glerose@comcast.net. I'm still jazzed about living in Forest Hill – after 22 years here!

'Sunday in the Park' Event In July Needs Volunteers

By Rob Jones
FLYER Correspondent

If you were around for last summer's "Sunday in the Park with Friends", you know that Forest Hill Park really comes alive on one special Sunday in July. Co-sponsored by Friends of Forest Hill Park and Fourth District Councilwoman Kathy Graziano, this event is designed to bring people together from across South Richmond for one great family picnic in the park.

What goes on? It's down-home, old-fashioned fun, from live music and free refreshments to nature walks, history tours, eco-friendly exhibits, games, clowns, and face-painting.

The event has been grow-

ing bigger every year for the past three years, and this year's event, planned for Sunday, July 20, promises to be even bigger. Now, Friends of Forest Hill Park are looking for folks who might like to share the fun of putting this event together from idea to action.

The tasks are simple and varied from distributing posters and flyers, making phone calls, arranging for delivery of picnic supplies, cooking hot dogs, to handing out watermelon.

If you only have a few hours to give, either on the planning team or the day of the event, July 20, please contact Rob Jones, 233-3748 or robleyj@aol.com.

HOUSE TOUR

Continued from Page 1

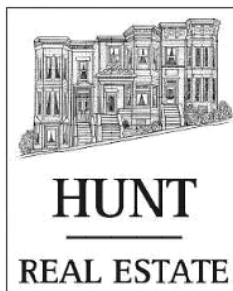
tour, made a fall tour a natural fit." Funds raised by the Tour actually help to support the Music in the Park series, along with such neighborhood improvements as trail maintenance in the James River Park System, upkeep of the Phideaux Field dog park, and special projects such as the historic archway sign at the Forest Hill Park entrance.

The Tour represents a diverse range of house styles and all corners of the neigh-

borhood, with houses on both sides of Forest Hill Avenue.

Several of the homes feature exciting new renovations, and all of them showcase the diversity and charm of our grand old neighborhood. Mark your calendars for September 21, and watch ForestHillNeighborhood.com for more details.

Anyone interesting in volunteering their home, or would like to volunteer, either this year or next, please email the chairpersons at lbhawthorne@gmail.com.



Phone
232-6356x701

Forest Hill's
Leading
Real Estate
Company

DAN HUNT CRS, GRI
Principal Broker

Forest Hill Terrace resident for more than 10 years!



The Flyer Profile:

Celebrity Pooch

What's your name and age?

Sunny, 6 years old

Who's your human?

Dana Cooper & Phil Licking

Where and when did you get adopted?

I was found wandering on 43rd St. in May 2002

What's your heritage?

Yellow Lab plus a healthy dose of white German Shepherd

What's your favorite toy?

Whichever one is nearest to me.

What's your best trick?

Fooling Mommy into feeding me anytime, anywhere. (She's a real softie.)

What are your best traits?

I'm certain that everyone loves me as much as I love them. (I don't know why the neighborhood cats cannot grasp this simple concept.) I'm also quite proud of my diminutive ears.

What else do you have to say about yourself?

I enjoy food, long walks in the park, food, quiet evenings at home, food, all things stinky and, of course, food.

Mongrel
Each day. Everyday.

In Carytown • 2924 W. Cary St. • 342-1272
Mon.-Sat. 10-7 • Sun. 12-6 • www.mongrelonline.com

Meet Your Neighbor

Erin Freeman & Drew Cahoon – It's De-lovely to be Here

By Grace LeRose
FHNA President

Erin Freeman, Associate Conductor of the Richmond Symphony, commuted from Baltimore for two years before deciding on Richmond as a permanent home. She feels strongly about "being a part of the community" where the Symphony plays. So when it came time to move here she did her research and chose Forest Hill.

She and her husband Drew, a database consultant for non-profit organizations, loved the natural setting of the neighborhood, closeness to downtown and the architectural diversity. High on their list of "must-haves" according to Erin was being able to walk to restaurants, shops and a coffee shop.

They have recently completed a three-month kitchen renovation to their home on 41st St, including a new screened porch off the kitchen. Erin made the project both beautiful, with stunning black granite countertops, (you can view the kitchen on this fall's house tour) and cost effective – finding deals on appliances using the internet and coupons!

Erin's dual roles with the Symphony as the Associate Conductor and as the Director of the 130-voice Richmond Symphony Chorus keep her grounded in two musical worlds.

She began her career as the youngest member of the Atlanta Symphony Chorus and has studied at Northwestern University, the Boston University School for the Arts and received her Doctorate of

Musical Arts from the Peabody Conservatory. She has long been a champion of music education for all ages; she is the conductor for the very popular series Kicked Back Classics and Kicked Back Classics (CLUB).

The Kicked Back Classics series offer the public a chance to hear the Symphony practice at various venues throughout the City including the Manchester Music Exchange. The series starts up again the first Thursday and Sunday in May. Check out the symphony's web page for more information on the series at www.richmondsymphony.com.

Erin and Drew are both aficionados of Tae Kwon Do. Erin has reached the black stripe level, and Drew is a black belt teaching at VCU and the James Center YMCA. And while the martial arts are not something you might expect out of a symphonic conductor, Erin says they "help you be a better teacher and have more patience."

She says Tae Kwon Do helps her remember how difficult it was to learn something new and different. She tries to remember that when she needs to teach a young musician something new.

When she is not busy with the Symphony, Erin looks forward to time spent in the garden and in her new kitchen whipping up batches of homemade granola. She and Drew are exploring the many bike trails in and around Forest Hill Park and James River Park.

De-lighted to have you
Erin and Drew, and welcome!



Drew and Erin toast their first Thanksgiving in their 41st street home. The couple recently completed a kitchen makeover which can be seen on the fall House Tour.

KATHY GRAZIANO

Keeping Promises for the
Fourth District

www.kathygraziano.com



District Office

6948 Forest Hill Avenue
Richmond, VA 23225
320-2454 (office)

GraziaKC@ci.richmond.va.us
Kgrazcouncil@aol.com

Kathy Graziano Fourth District Meeting is May 14, 7:00 PM

The full meeting will be devoted to plans for the widening of Forest Hill Avenue from Powhite Parkway to Hathaway Road.

Contact David Hathcock for details
320-2454 or david.hathcock@richmondgov.com

Cover The Ugly!

Turn your radiator into a piece of furniture.



All of our radiator covers are custom made for fit and individual style. With our radiator covers you will:

- Enhance your room decor
- Create new shelf space
- Make your radiator safer

Best of all, your radiator is hidden from view. We take pride in our prompt response and customer satisfaction. Call today for a free in home estimate.

RICHMOND

RADIATOR COVERS

804.779.2680 | RichmondRadiatorCovers.com

Various Projects in Works Along Forest Hill Ave Corridor

By Jerry Miller
FLYER Contributor

There has been considerable activity regarding development in our area. Most of these projects are positive, however, others will require us to work aggressively against them to maintain the character of the area and to continue the revitalization of Forest Hill Avenue. Below are quick updates on several projects.

The Stony Point Shopping Center (Huguenot Road and Forest Hill Avenue) has requested permission to erect a sign on Huguenot Road to allow great visibility for the shops in the center.

In other news at the Shopping Center, a work-out facility (gym) recently opened. At this point, most of the space at the Center has been leased.

CVS (Forest Hill Avenue, next to Food Lion) is in dis-

cussions to build a free-standing unit at near Hathaway Road and Forest Hill Avenue. Look for movement on this in the next couple of months.

Rite-Aid is under contract (but has yet to approve the purchase) to build a free-standing unit at the intersection of Cherokee Road and Forest Hill Avenue. In addition to the old Citgo site, the developer is also under contract for the land behind the service station. They are tentatively proposing (if approved by Rite-Aid) to build the pharmacy and several dozen units of "affordable" housing. Since a Community Unit Plan will be needed, the neighborhoods will have an opportunity to comment on this.

DILLIGAF Tattoo & Piercing has purchased the old dry cleaner store at the intersection of Cherokee Road and Forest Hill Avenue, and they

plan to move the tattoo shop to this highly visible location.

Given that this is a "by right" business, no special use permit is needed. Therefore, the community will have little opportunity to comment on the move.

It is somewhat discouraging that after spending years working to revitalize the Forest Hill Avenue corridor, this high-traffic, highly-visible location will be home to a tattoo parlor. The shop is currently in a less visible location in the Stratford Hills Shopping Center.

When they first arrived in the area, many folks tried to see what, if anything, could be done to encourage the owners to at least change the name, which is an old biker's term that is offensive to many. Unfortunately, zoning regulations at the time allowed for the use and name.

Tropical Smoothie Cafe is currently in contract discussions with the center near the Wawa (Forest Hill Avenue, where AT&T and Little Caesar's is located) to open a Cafe in the center. Most agree that this would be positive for the area.

Wendy's (Forest Hill Avenue, in front of the Wal-Mart and Lowe's) abruptly closed for business a few weeks ago.

The **Arbors Senior Apartment and Community** complex is now open and seeking tenants. The former building was destroyed by a fire, and the new building will have better fire suppression and other safety features.

The rebuilding of this complex was long overdue and it is a great sign that they finally are accepting new residents.

For more information, contact Jerry Miller at 323-6874 or Findmiller@aol.com.

Patrick Henry Charter School Initiative at Critical Juncture

An environmentally focused curriculum, unprecedented parental/family school involvement, no more expensive back-to-school wardrobes, a progressive quarterly calendar, and the greening of an historic school building: If these sound appealing to you, then you may want to look into the Patrick Henry Initiative (PHI).

We have roughly a month before school board members vote to approve or deny our charter school application. What can you do to improve the chances of getting a YES VOTE from the school board? Get involved! Getting involved does not necessarily mean a huge time commitment. There are a number of small things you can do to make this school a reality.

You can...

1. Tell your friends, neighbors and co-workers about

the initiative and its status. Share the information, or send them to the website www.patrickhenrycharter.org.

2. Call your city council representative and tell them you support the initiative.

3. Call your school board representative and share your desire to make the charter school a reality.

4. Get involved by coming to a meeting, or by helping to distribute flyers, yard signs and car magnets.

5. Help to get the support of civic associations, business leaders, parents, and other tax payers.

What else is in this initiative for Richmond families? Choice. As well as an innovative curriculum that is not being offered anywhere else in Virginia, and the opportunity to stay in the city for families who are concerned about their current schooling options.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

*A Catholic Environment
South of the James*

**1401 Perry Street
Richmond, VA 23225
Phone (804) 232-8964**

Located in the Bainbridge area between Cowardin Ave and Commerce Rd on Perry Street 2 blocks east of Semmes Ave

Masses in English

Saturday 5:30 PM and Sunday 9:00 AM

Masses in English/Misas en Español

Sunday 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM
Domingo 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM y 5:00 PM

*Visitors and those looking for a warm,
friendly congregation are welcomed!*

Park Sign Restores Historic Gateway

By Monica Rumsey
FLYER Correspondent

A new sign stands proudly above the brick columns at the historic entrance to Forest Hill Park. For Friends of Forest Hill Park, it is a dream fulfilled, and one more piece of the puzzle as they work to restore the park to its former glory.

When FFHP began re-searching the park's history many years ago in the Valentine Richmond History Center archives, they found a photograph from around 1890 that showed a man standing by the trolley tracks at the Forest Hill Amusement Park entrance on Forest Hill Avenue.



"Forest Hill Park" sign after installation in December 2007. Standing in gateway are Stephanie Foertmeyer and Monica Rumsey, Co-Presidents, Friends of Forest Hill Park. Photo: Christy Everson, Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities.

According to neighborhood legend, some time in the 1940s, during World War II, the iron letters were taken down as scrap iron "for the war effort" and the stucco columns were converted to brick structures.

Fast forward to 2006, when the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association sponsored its first annual House Tour. A wish list of donations was drawn up, and neighbors voted to give some of the house tour proceeds to Friends of Forest Hill

Park, to restore the missing sign.

Some \$3500 was pledged for the sign with additional funds to be spent on other park improvements.

Last summer, a less than accurate sign reproduction was installed, but was later rejected in favor of greater historical accuracy.

Thanks to the expert eye and typographic skills of admitted "type-font junkie" Matt Boyle at Acorn Sign Graphics, the letters on the new sign precisely match the ones in the original historic photo. (PS: Matt is a Westover Hills resident)

Custom Ornamental Iron, located in Glen Allen, was kind enough to redo the sign at no extra charge, meticulously fabricating it according to Acorn's digital specifications.

If you get a chance, stop by and see for yourself what a difference a grand entrance can make to a beloved old neighborhood hangout.

Kathy Graziano, 4th District City Council

Time for Spring Musings . . .



Spring is a great time to be in Forest Hill. Marjolein is out on her bike, ducks are laying eggs in the lake, and flowers are blooming . . .

This is also a good time to look at some of the great traditions of our community, both old and new.

We want to remember and urge everyone to visit our Southampton neighbors for

Riverfest along the River at Pony Pasture. It's scheduled for June 7, and is great fun for the whole family. It even has a killer five-K race through the streets.

On July 20, we will cosponsor the fourth annual Sunday in the Park at Forest Hill Park. The event is free, and includes games and activities, learning opportunities and hot dog and

watermelon. It's held at the Stone House at Forest Hill Park from noon to 4 pm.

There's also some very exciting news about a Farmer's Market. We have been working with the William Byrd House and the Parks Department, and we hope to have open this spring a Saturday morning Farmer's Market at Forest Hill Park. The market is designed to sell locally-raised or produced farm goods, and will be open from 8 am to noon.

It's spring, a time for City Council to work on the budget, and this year will be especially challenging. The General Assembly has cut state funding to Richmond by millions of dollars, the mayor says that we cannot cut the tax rate any further, so we are working with especially sharp pencils to make cuts where we can.

So many of our successful programs have come as a result of suggestions from residents, so I hope you will continue to call me or write with your good ideas. In the meantime, have a great spring and summer.

FOREST HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD

Grace LeRose

president, glerose@comcast.net, 230-9205

Susan Winiecki

vice president, editor@richmag.com or 232-2847

Roger Clark

treasurer, 232-6898

Vicky Hamrick

secretary/membership chair

Janet Bowers

board, social committee, 200-1922

Dave Broocke

board, social & house tour committees

Bernard Casey

board, social committee, stonewallave@yahoo.com

Rob Jones

board, park improvement, robleyj@aol.com

Phil Licking

board, webmaster, phil@adeptadvertising.com

Kathryn Skudlarek

board, friends of forest hill park liaison, jbmiller@mail1.vcu.edu

Brent Teneffoss

board, newsletter co-editor, brentfoss@cavtel.net

Up Close and Personal

**By Martha Cooper
FLYER Co-Editor**

Grace LeRose heads the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association (FHNA) as president for 2008. New officers were elected at the January association meeting.

Grace has lived in the neighborhood for over 22 years, and has served on the Social Committee and as chairman of that committee in 2007. Professionally, she is the chief chemist for Quality Assurance at Richmond's Department of Public Utilities. At home, she enjoys gardening and exploring the James River with her dog. When asked why she volunteers to work for the neighborhood

association, she said, "People choose a neighborhood like ours because it is a community—not just a bunch of houses next door to each other. We are a community, and the association allows us to function as a community. It helps us get to know one another, support one another, and creates a way for people to communicate about interests and issues."

Elected as vice president is **Susan Winiecki**, former interim president of the association, board member, and co-chair of the House Tour Committee.

Many of you know Susan as the editor-in-chief of Richmond Magazine. Susan, and husband, Andrew Cain, moved to Forest Hill in 2002 from North Side. Susan enjoys antiques, especially for vintage textiles and architectural salvage, flower arranging, and fledgling art collecting. Why volunteer? Susan backed Grace by saying: "Neighbors who can count on one another are what make a great community. By getting to know one another through

volunteering and setting common goals, we only strengthen Forest Hill, making it an even more desirable place to live."

Roger Clark will continue as the treasurer for the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association. Roger has served in this capacity for about five years. He is a certified public accountant with a specialty in corporate governance and has his own business. He has also served as director of Neighborhood Watch in the past. Roger, who has lived in the community for 36 years, enjoys "anything that floats, particularly whitewater rafting and sailing." He is also interested in British sports cars and travel. Roger says he volunteers for the association because "community service is a long family tradition. I also like to see things getting done."

This will mark **Vicky Hamrick's** third year as secretary for the association. She has also served as a Neighborhood Watch block captain. Vicky moved here in 2001 from Woodland Heights because she wanted to stay in the general area. In 2004, she married her husband Bob in their backyard on Dunston.

Vicky works as a paralegal and as a professional musician, playing the oboe. Since her music career has her on the road, frequently to Charlottesville and Williamsburg, she says she doesn't have time for hobbies. Why does she work for the association? "I volunteered because a co-worker pointed out to me that everyone is full of excuses for not getting involved in their neighborhoods, but this is where you live. We're quick to bring up problems, but slow to be part of the solution. I want to be part of the solution for making where I live a better place to live," she reported.

People who chair specific committees or have other direct responsibilities serve as board members for the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association. Board members for 2008 are: **Bernard Casey**, Social Committee, **Dave Broocke**, Social Committee and House Tour Committee, **Kathryn Skudlarek**, Friends of Forest Hill Park Liaison, **Rob Jones**, Park Improvement Committee, **Janet Bowers**, Social Committee, **Brent Tennefoss**, Forest Hill Flyer Co-Editor, and **Phil Licking**, Webmaster.

Social Committee Expands Popular Concert Series

**By Bernard Casey
FHNA Social Committee**

The Social Committee is hard at work planning lots of community events for 2008. Along with our annual events, be on the lookout for newly designed t-shirts, hats, bumper stickers and neighborhood flags.

Music in the Park enters its third year. This concert series is a collaborative effort between Forest Hill, Westover Hills and Woodland Heights neighborhoods.

We've added two concerts to make a total of six. The concert series begins in May and ends in October. The July concert will be in conjunction with Sunday in the Park with Friends.

Other upcoming events include the Plant Swap, Annual Yard Sale, Wine Club Social, Forest Hill House Tour, Harvest Festival Pot Luck Dinner and Holiday Social. Visit the FHNA web site for details, dates and times.



www.dominionheatingair.com

804.266.8577



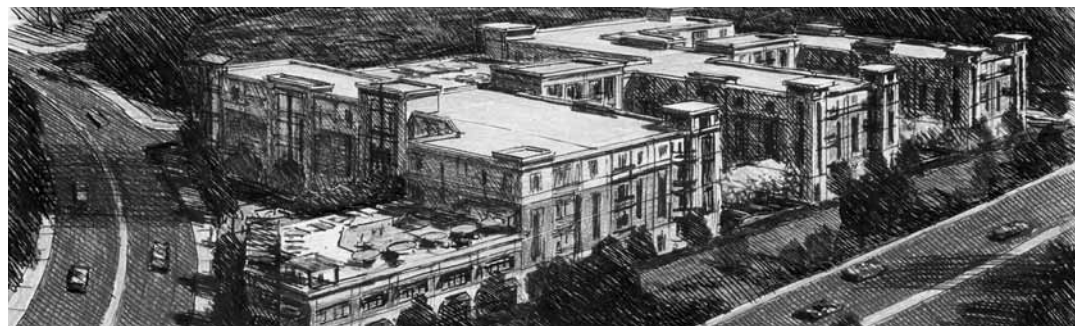
CROSLAND

Continued from Page 1

hood Association voted at its February meeting to join with Springhill and Woodland Heights in opposing this amended development plan fearing increased traffic problems, safety issues, and inadequate parking.

Crosland withdrew the amended SUP on March 7. Woodland Heights and Springhill had engaged a lawyer to look into legal issues about the extension of the original SUP.

When Crosland met with the representatives from the three southside neighborhoods on March 10, Crosland already had submitted the new SUP before any negotiations with the neighborhoods. The Land Use Committee had directed Crosland and the neighborhoods to try to work out their differences before the next meeting of the Land Use Committee on



Rendering of the proposed facility at the south end of the Lee Bridge. Image Source: Crosland

March 18. The new SUP still calls for 200 rental units, mini-size 650 square feet.

The only two topics settled on March 10 were that (1) the parcel at 600 Cowardin will no longer be attached to the project at 700 Cowardin and (2) 700 Cowardin will be rental property.

Attempts to negotiate density at a March 20 meeting between Crosland and neighborhood representatives did not result in an agreement. The two parties are still very far apart on what each finds to be acceptable.

It is expected that Council could vote on this SUP as early as Tuesday, May 27.

City Council's numerous postponements and the City Land Use Committee's directive that Crosland, the developer, and the representatives from the neighborhoods continue to negotiate may be much ado about nothing. Crosland seems reluctant to make any concessions on the issues most important to the neighborhoods—density and rentals.

Residents are encouraged to stay informed on this issue.

The land proposed for development is a "gateway" to South Richmond and could set a precedent for future multi-family developments along Cowardin and Semmes Avenue.

For more information, visit the Springhill neighborhood's website: <http://mysite.verizon.net/leapday92/index.html> or contact the following neighbors who have worked on this project: Carolyn Paulette, 232-6644, cmp4312@yahoo.com or Lee Shewmake, 230-7684, renovator20022002@yahoo.com.

Renovation Loans Lend money today - based on tomorrow's value.



WELLS
FARGO

HOME
MORTGAGE

The Nation's #1 Renovation Lender

TURN THIS



INTO THIS



"The worse the house,
the better"

New kitchens / baths
Upgrade systems - New Roof
Additions - Complete
renovations - You name it



Attend our monthly
Home Buyer/
Renovation Lending
workshops to learn
more about how to
save or improve an
old house.

Information at my
web site and also at
richmondneighborhoods.org

THE RICHARD DAY RENOVATION LOAN TEAM

804-285-5680 x1003 / fixandfinance.com

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Sunday Excursion

Take a Trolley Car and Follow Original Route on April 6 Tour

The Valentine Richmond History Center invites you to join us for a Sunday drive via trolley car on Sunday, April 6, 2-4 pm. Follow the original trolley line through Manchester and Woodland Heights, making two stops along the way: Forest Hill Park's Stone House and Manchester's recently restored Mechanics and Merchants Bank (now The Bankuet Place).

Friends of Forest Hill Park graciously agreed to open the Stone House for this event and will be providing history on one of Richmond's most treasured parks and neighborhoods.

Hop aboard a trolley and travel through Woodland Heights to Manchester, where we will stop at the original Mechanics and Merchants Bank, now under the ownership of Laura Bryant as The Bankuet Place.

Laura bought the bank several years ago and, after



A turn-of-the-century Richmond trolley car. Photo: Cook Collection, Valentine Richmond History Center

much hard work, is pleased to open it for events. Come see the beautiful and unusual interior with its marble chandelier, columns, and vault.

Trolleys will leave from Forest Hill Park (in front of the Stone House) and from The Bankuet Place, 1129 Hull Street, circulating the duration of the event and leaving every 20 minutes. Passengers may board the trolley at either location.

Families are welcome, and refreshments will be provided. Please contact Morgan Colonna at the Valentine Richmond History Center for more information: 649-0711 extension 325.

Donald McEachin, 9th District State Senator

General Assembly Update



As the 2008 General Assembly ends, I would like to share with you some of my highs and

lows in my first Session as your State Senator.

I was dismayed to see my low-level nuclear waste disposal study dropped by the House of Delegates. Concurring with my concerns that we have no plan for our low level nuclear waste when South Carolina stops accepting it in July, the State Senate unanimously approved a study. Unfortunately, the House of Delegates used the tyranny of the majority to prevent discussion or a vote on the measure.

My worry remains that we have no plan and the time quickly approaches when Virginia will need to dispose of its own radioactive trash.

I also introduced a bill to ensure that high school students are exposed to information about FDA-approved contraceptives in a strong abstinence-based Family Life Education program. The Senate narrowly rejected this bill. While abstinence is the best choice for our youth and we must stress that in our

schools, we all know that sometimes our adolescents don't listen. Therefore, it is imperative that high schoolers have the information they need to stay and be safe.

My Higher Education Student Loan Act has passed the House and Senate and awaits the governor's signature. This will ensure transparency in the financial aid business, forcing lenders and higher education institutions to disclose important information to students about the lenders and their relationship with the university. This is an important step in making higher education accessible and affordable for all students who want it.

Citizen Environmental Boards survived an attempt to weaken them and, thereby, weaken oversight of our environment. We were also able to institute several other environmental measures. I am eager to continue to advocate for these critical improvements.

With the Session ending, I will be back in my district office at Nine Mile Road. My door is always open and I am happy to talk with constituents. I can be reached at 288.3381 or through email on my website www.donald-mceachin.com.



Westover Hills Library News

By Laura Dysart

The Westover Hills Library Advisory Group will sponsor its second annual Yuri's Night on Saturday, April 12, at 7:00 p.m. at the Westover Hills Branch library.

On April 12, 1961, Russian born Yuri Gagarin was the first human to orbit the Earth, and this accomplishment is celebrated all over the world each year on April 12!

Come have a pizza dinner at the library, make space crafts, watch an educational DVD, check out space-related books, leave with project information and other goodies, and hopefully we will once again have the Richmond Astronomical Society talk to us and set up telescopes outside to view planets and stars towards the end of the event. Please call 646-8833 for more information about this and other programming.

Stop by the library at the beginning of each month and pick up a "Check it Out" which details all the events at all branch libraries for the month. The Westover Hills Library has just started "movie nights" at the library.

43rd Street

GALLERY

1412 West 43rd St. • Richmond, Va 23225

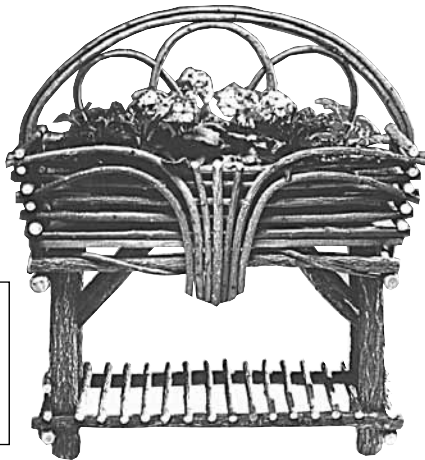
233•1758 • www.43rdstgallery.com

Your Local Source for Fine Crafts

New
Spring
Arrivals

Wedding Gifts
& Accessories

SPRING FLING
10% OFF
Willow Furniture
April Special



• **GALLERY HOURS** •

Tues–Thurs 10am–6pm • Fri & Sat 10am–4pm

43rd Street Festival of the Arts • September 13th

Bird Count in Park Reveals Diversity

By Monica Rumsey
FLYER Correspondent

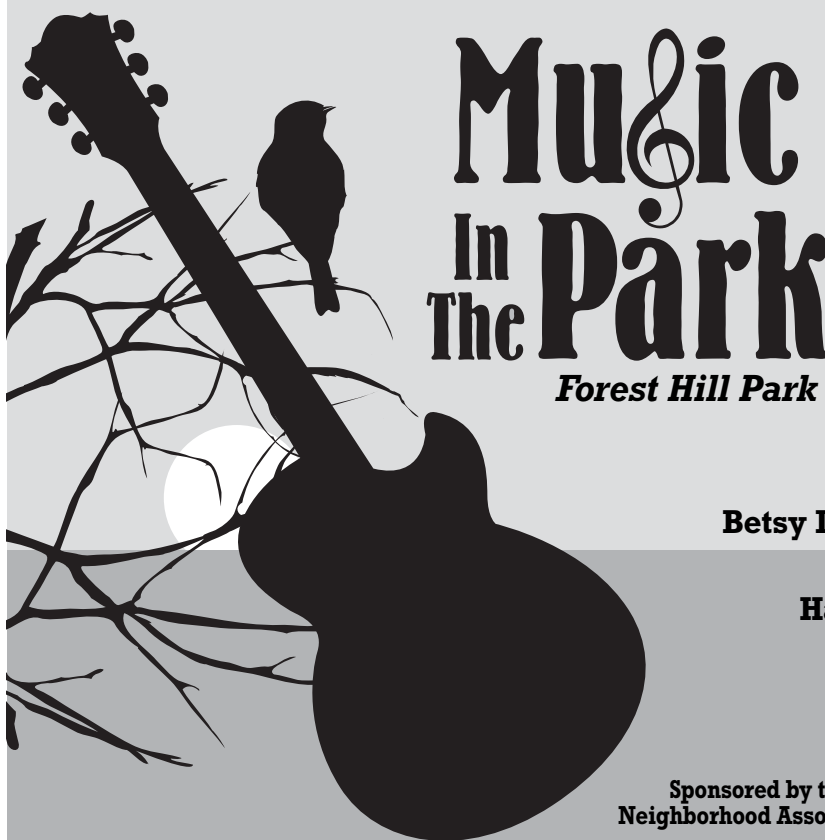
On Saturday morning, February 16, as part of this year's "Great Backyard Bird Count" (sponsored annually by the Cornell University Ornithology Lab), Richmond Audubon Society member Sue Ridd led a group of 10 interested visitors through Forest Hill Park.

Ms Ridd describes the park's habitat as "deciduous woodlands and urban freshwater," which translates to an excellent place to visit or live for more than 30 different bird species.

During the 2 ½ hours they walked through the park, the bird-count team recorded the following array: Mallard 2; Turkey Vulture 3; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ring-billed Gull 2; Mourning Dove 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker 4; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Northern Flicker 1;

Eastern Phoebe 2 (confirmed); Blue Jay 6; American Crow 3; Carolina Chickadee 2; Tufted Titmouse 2; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 1; Carolina Wren 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; Eastern Bluebird 2; American Robin 13; European Starling 1; Pine Warbler 2 (confirmed); Eastern Towhee 2; American Tree Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 50; Northern Cardinal 4; Red-winged Blackbird 4; Common Grackle 33; House Finch 2; American Goldfinch 4; House Sparrow 1.

If you want to sample the natural riches of Forest Hill Park, take the time to walk quietly through the park (keeping your dog on its leash) in the early morning or late afternoon. You may be surprised to see how many different birds are there for the very same reason!



Music In The Park *Forest Hill Park*

May 18th • 6-8pm
Circuit Riders
(Americana/Folk)

June 15th • 6-8pm
Cashmere Jungle Lords
(Swamp/Surf Rock)

July 20th • 4-6pm
Sunday in the Park
The Sugar Hollow Ramblers
(Bluegrass)

August 10th • 6-8pm
Betsy Lynn and the Boys (Classic Country)

September 14th • 5-7pm
Hamburger James (Rock-a-Billy)

October 5th • 5-7pm
Bluz Cats (Blues)

Sponsored by the Forest Hill, Westover Hills and Woodland Heights
Neighborhood Associations and the City of Richmond Parks and Recreation



Neighborhood Wine Club

Lift a glass of claret or sip a little chardonnay at one of our neighborhood Wine Club gatherings. The way it works is that someone in the community volunteers their place and provides snacks and munchies. Everyone who attends brings a bottle of wine. It is a good way to meet lots of people and to try a few wines that may be new to you. Check the FHNA website for dates and locations.

If you would like to volunteer to host, or have questions, please contact Sarah McDonald at timsarahmcd@gmail.com.

Annual Community Yard Sale is June 7

If you don't use it, get rid of it! That's what all the clutter experts say when it comes to making your home a nicer place. The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Annual Yard Sale can help you do just that.

By pooling advertising costs, handing out maps, and creating a big event, the neighborhood draws many eager buyers to the sale. You will have the opportunity to clean out your attic, your

garage, and get rid of all the things you never use. Never forget—one person's trash is another's treasure. The date for the sale is June 7, 2008.

The deadline to sign up for the yard sale is May 23. All participants will contribute \$15 toward a newspaper ad and to be on the map.

Each participant is responsible for providing his or her own signs on the day of the sale. To sign up, please contact Susan Campbell at 804-232-6480.

Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility Now Open Regularly

The bucket of used motor oil in the garage now has someplace else to go. Richmond launched a year-round disposal of hazardous wastes eliminating the need for city residents to wait for a once-a-year collection. The measure initially created and funded by Council Members Chris Hilbert and Kathy Graziano, was first proposed almost three years ago, but delayed by the Department of Public Works. City public works officials opened the facility in March to collect hazardous waste at the East Richmond Road Landfill & Convenience Center, 3800 E. Richmond Road.

The kinds of waste accepted include solvents, such as

paints and fuel; car fluids and batteries; household cleaners and drain openers; herbicides and pesticides; and thermometers and other devices containing mercury. Such waste is considered unsafe for landfills.

The year round collection is the culmination of a three year-long campaign by City Council Member Kathy Graziano, who has added money to the city budget, only to see the program deferred for several years.

James River Park Celebrates Earth Day on April 19

The Earth Day/14th Street Fish Festival will take place on Saturday, April 19, from 10-3 at the new Floodwall Park located at the south end of the Mayo Bridge.

Activities related to the river include: touch tanks with live fish, fishing rods, tackle, bait and guide service for kids, fly-fishing clinics and equipment demos for adults, girls dancing the migration of spawning fish (this is particu-

larly interesting and takes place after lunch), opportunities to release fish into the river and canal, and bus tours to the Boshier Dam Fish Ladder.

There will also be a host of exhibits on energy efficient housing, low energy lighting, urban organic gardening and recycling.

There is lots of free parking and the event is accessible by the city bus line.

For information about all the different programs that will take place along or near the James River in the Greater Richmond Area, be sure to pick up a copy of the *River Days Calendar of Events*. It should be ready for distribution in late March or early April and can be picked up at any library, most supermarkets and City Hall.

For questions about the environmental programs offered by the James River Park System, volunteer opportunities, or to purchase park maps and brochures, please call 646-8911.

Take Part in Your Community

The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association meets at 7 PM on the second Wednesday of each month at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

April 9, 2008 ♦ May 14, 2008 ♦ June 11, 2008

**Get a Groovy
Decal when
you join.**



**ADD A LITTLE PIZAZZ
TO YOUR CAR BUMPER.**

Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

☐ Household Membership \$10

☐ Corporate Membership \$25

Pay by Cash or Check (payable to Forest Hill Neighborhood Association)

Forward to:

Roger Clark, FHNA Treasurer, 4216 Stonewall Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225

NOTE: Annual membership dues cover calendar year Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2008