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THE FOREST HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

INSIDE

Spring 2009



Spring Events Include Annual 'Big' Yard Sale

By Bernard Casey
FHNA Social Committee

Spring is coming and it's that time of year again – spring cleaning and yard sales. Clear out your attics, basements, garages, closets and kitchens and plan to be part of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Annual Yard Sale. It's on June 6 (the first Saturday in June) from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon at your house.

This is one of those things you get for your \$15 membership. In the past we've collected a fee from each participant to cover ad fees. This year FHNA will cover the cost of the ad.

The deadline to sign up for the yard sale is May 22. All participants must be current
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Easement Plan Clears Council

Richmond City Council has passed and sent to Mayor Dwight Jones and Governor Tim Kaine a proposed conservation easement for James River Park.

The easement is believed to be the first of its kind for an urban park in the United States. It was proposed and shepherded through an almost four year process by Richmond City Council President Kathy Graziano. The easement will provide permanent protection for the park in its natural state and will prevent any future
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More than 230 entrants ran, strolled and walked their dogs in the inaugural running of the "I Heart Tree" 5K event. The route meandered through the neighborhood and concluded with a straight run down Spring Hill towards the finish line at the Stone House entrance to the Park. In the casual spirit of the event no times were recorded and no trophies were awarded, but every participant walked away with a souvenir t-shirt for their efforts. Photo: Brent Tennefoss

Neighborhood 5K Draws a Crowd

By Zac and Katie Sheldon
Event Coordinators

On February 14, 2009, over 230 people participated in the inaugural "I Heart Tree" 5K run/walk. The weather was crisp and sunny, and there were a variety of participants including runners, walkers, children, and canines. Participants ranged all ages and came from as far away as Springfield, VA. There was also phenomenal turnout from our own Forest Hill'ers.

We have received positive feedback from the 5K from many participants:

"We had a great time running (my dog included) through the beautiful neighborhood and meeting folks after the race."

"The shirts are FANTASTIC and the police officers were

really on top of with traffic, the course was beautiful...Had fun and will do it again next year if ya'll have it again."

"We're all hoping it becomes a Forest Hill tradition!"

Proceeds will benefit the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association and the Richmond Police Athletic League (PAL), chosen by Richmond Police Sector 312. PAL is a great organization that provides opportunities through sports and education for at-risk youth in the Richmond area.

Thank you to all of our sponsors: Cielito Lindo, Crossroads Coffee and Ice Cream, Friends of Forest Hill Park, O'Toole's, Riverside Outfitters, The Ken Hurst Realty Team, Taxslayer.com, and True Timber. Their participation greatly supported the event.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to all of our volunteers, without whom the event would not have been possible. Lastly, thanks to all who participated. We live in a wonderful neighborhood and it was really nice to see the turnout of neighbors and the show of enthusiasm on race day. You made the event successful!

We are pleased to announce that we plan to organize the second annual "I Heart Tree" 5K next year. We would love to hear your comments or suggestions for next year's race, please send them to ihearttree5k@gmail.com. Please stay tuned to future newsletter articles for dates and details.

See you next year and around the neighborhood.

Nobody Knew Forest Hill Better Than the Prices

by Grace LeRose, FHNA President

Clarence Price knew what he wanted that warm summer day in 1946. He walked from his house on 29th Street in Woodland Heights nearly every day to see his sweetheart Frances, who lived on New Kent Avenue in Forest Hill. The two had grown up together, attending Patrick Henry School during the 30s. Frances knew the Park when the amusement park was here, Clarence remembers sledding down the hills in winter.

Clarence had left high school to join the Navy and when he



Frances and Clarence "Tootie" Price in a snapshot from their honeymoon.

returned stateside after the war, came back to his home in Woodland Heights. Frances and Clarence (who everybody calls Tootie) met again on a blind date at a company dance at Dupont. The two quickly renewed their childhood friendship on long walks through Forest Park, especially enjoying the walk around the lake. That summer day they stopped at the stone gazebo and Frances hopped up to sit in the window. Tootie asked Frances to marry him that day and the two of them were married for 60 years before Frances died in 2007.

They spent most of their married life in a house on Stonewall Ave. raising two girls, Patricia and Brenda. I would see them together almost every day, walking their dog (a series of very spoiled and much loved wiener dogs) around the neighborhood.



Frances and Tootie posed at the Forest Hill Pavilion stone gazebo in 2000 for a newspaper article, nearly 50 years after Tootie proposed in the same spot.

Photo: Richmond Times-Dispatch

I think of Tootie and Frances as we move into spring after a long, cold winter. We have watched the financial world turn upside down, leaving us breathless and stunned. But is it really the worst thing that has happened to us? Haven't generations before us endured worse? Tootie and Frances lived through both the Depression and World War II, managing to fall in love, raise babies and love each other for over six decades. I think of Tootie and Frances as we begin the restoration of the lake where Tootie proposed. Perhaps this summer another young man will take a walk through the Park with his sweetheart and on bent knee, ask the same question Tootie asked 63 years ago.

In case you missed it, we had a fantastic turnout for the "I Heart Tree" 5K run/walk on February 14th. By all accounts the race was a smashing success with over 200 participants. We had strollers, dogs, bikes, kids, walkers and runners enjoying the scenery in Forest Hill. Zack and Katie Sheldon and their team did a fantastic job with this event and we look forward to next year's race.

More good news. Neighborhood flags will be available by late summer so put your order in now! A PDF of the flag design can be seen on the FHNA website. It will be green with the logo tree on it, "Welcome" will be spelled out on top and "Forest Hill" on the bottom in white. They are simple and classic and I can't wait to see them flying when I take my walk. Thanks to Dorna Braswell for her creativity with the flag design. We have been waiting a long time to bring flags to Forest Hill, be sure to get yours!

Music in the Park returns this Mother's Day. Bring a picnic, your sweetheart, a chair and the kids. We continue to celebrate life in Forest Hill – just like Tootie and Frances.

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Major Snow Storm Closes Schools and Blankets Park

An unexpectedly heavy snow on March 1 dropped about one foot of the white stuff in central Virginia and left power outages and closed schools in its wake. For most of the following week the Park was an alpine oasis luring sledders from all over the city. Photos: Brent Teneffoss



Join New Garden Group for Monthly Meetings

Calling All Gardeners! If you're a beginning or aspiring gardener looking for advice and support, or an experienced gardener looking for a community of like-minded individuals, you may be interested in a group being formed

by Viki Atkinson. Viki was an organizer and active member of such a group in North Carolina before moving here.

The group will meet once a month, but you may participate without going to meetings. The meeting location

rotates each month so that each member who wishes to may share their garden. The host gives a tour of their garden (or garden-to-be) at the onset. Hosting a meeting is 100% voluntary. "I anticipate having a large email list and

sharing information online, if this ends up being like our group in NC," Viki said. "We normally had about 15 to 20 people at our meetings."

"Sometimes we had a topic, like composting or deal-
continued on page 12

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Patrick Henry Update

2010 Target for Charter School Startup

By Krista Simmerman

Plans for opening Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts in July 2010 are continuing at breakneck speed. Board and volunteer meetings take place every Thursday night at the Patrick Henry Building on 3411 Semmes Avenue. The Board is actively seeking contributions and volunteers. Funds on the order of \$600K are needed to cover expenses incurred prior to July 2010 when our partner, Richmond Public Schools, begins funding academic programs.

These expenses include the fee for the attorney who negotiated our charter contract, the principal's salary prior to school opening, training for all teachers in integrative instruction, plumbing and fixture repairs, kitchen equipment, outfitting the library and media center, computers,

textbooks, playground upgrades, and a transportation fund.

You may donate directly to PHSSA through the website (patrickhenrycharter.org). Volunteer needs are many, but at this point are concentrated in the following areas: fundraising committee leadership and fundraising project volunteers, graphic design assistance, artists/artisans for donor recognition projects, facilities maintenance and repairs, and grant writers.

Greening of the building and grounds is part of PHSSA's mission and curriculum. Because of this non-traditional focus, grants are an essential component of the fundraising effort. This February we participated in a Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund grant proposal led by the Alliance for Chesapeake Bay called "Curb-

ing the Flow: Approaching No Runoff."

If awarded, the Alliance will help PHSSA to undertake a school-based urban redevelopment project that will eliminate 100% of stormwater from the school property, give students a unique perspective on sustainability, and provide a publicly accessible location where Richmond citizens can see the long term economic benefits of low impact development strategies. With around \$150K through this project and with more than \$200K of in-kind volunteer hours, professional services, donated equipment, and supplies, PHSSA would gain permeable paving in the parking lot, a green roof, rainwater harvesting cisterns, grey water plumbing for toilets, landscape swales, and a multi-story forest garden.

Another proposal is in preparation to the US DOE Charter Schools Program that, if awarded, will provide roughly \$150K over three years for planning and program design.

There are several other grant opportunities open for submission and contributions from businesses and foundations that we are pursuing, each proposal requiring 2-3 people working 2-3 weeks each. Needless to say, PHSSA is in dire need of assistance in this crucial area.

Restoration of Lake Will Begin Soon

At the January meeting of the Friends of Forest Hill Park, J.R. Pope, Director of the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Community Facilities, reported that the long-awaited lake restoration project is nearing contract agreement and that work will begin by the spring.

The project will include restoring the lake to its historic boundaries; dredging sediment (approximately 40,000 cubic yards) that has filled in and clogged areas of the lake; the construction of

Project expected to take about seven months to complete

two silt collections areas within the lake; the creation of wetlands on the east side of the lake; the relocation of Reedy Creek to its historic channel; and the enhancement of forested wetlands south of the lake.

The stone gazebo will remain in place and will eventually serve as an education kiosk.

The cost of the project is listed at \$1.75 million and is part of Major Park Renovations under the City of the Future program. Once begun, the restoration is anticipated to take about seven months.

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Photo Brent Tennefoss

The Flyer Profile:

Celebrity Pooch

What's your name and age? Darcey, and I'm four years old.

Who's your human? Viki Atkinson.

Where and when did you get adopted? I was adopted in October 2007 from the Richmond SPCA.

What's your heritage? I'm a Border Collie-something. Don't know what the something is.

What's your favorite toy? I have lots of stuffed squeaky toys! My favorite is probably my giraffe.

What's your best trick? Stealing bread off the kitchen counter when my Mom is silly enough to leave the room while she's making a sandwich!

What are your best traits? My enthusiasm and friendliness!

What else do you have to say about yourself? I'm a really good watchdog! Some bad people tried to break in our house one day, and I scared them away before they could take anything. My Mom was very proud of me and bought me a big bone.

To nominate a candidate for the Celebrity Pooch profile please contact Martha Cooper by email: martha_cooper@verizon.net

Dog Party on April 18 Features Massage, Grooming and Adoptions

Let's get together to celebrate all our own celebrity pooches on Saturday, April 18, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The 43rd Street Gallery is hosting a neighborhood dog party for our canine friends. At this time we plan to have gourmet dog treats, photo ops for you and your pup, a pet psychic, pet massage, pet grooming, and adoptions.

The pottery shop will have dog bowls ready for you to decorate and personalize. Dog related gifts and accessories

will be available in the gallery and by vendors out front.

Paw prints will be free for all Forest Hill Neighborhood Association members. Not a member? You can join on Dog Day!

Everyone, with or without a pet, is encouraged to stop by to mingle with friends and celebrate the arrival of Spring.

Anyone from the neighborhood with dog-related services who would like to participate should call Robin at 233-1758 and join the party.

ANNUAL YARD SALE

from page one

FHNA members to have their homes listed in the Richmond Times-Dispatch ad. Each participant is responsible for their own signs on the day of the sale. A printable map of participating homes will be supplied in advance. We ask that

you make 10-15 copies to hand out to shoppers.

Good Shepherd Episcopal School will sell bottled water, coffee and donuts.

Contact Maria Berry for more information and to sign up to be part of the yard sale. Her email address is: mariab@hotmail.com.

Dog Days of Spring



Saturday, April 18th • 9am–2pm
1412 West 43rd Street

outside the 43rd Street Gallery

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Know Your Neighbors

Ladins Settling In Nicely

By Shannon Dion
FLYER Correspondent

Forest Hill is an amazing place to live. Natural beauty, a thriving community spirit and interesting neighbors are the

perfect ingredients to making our neighborhood so special. One of our newest residents is Richmond native Gary Ladin. Gary and his wife Lou Ann recently moved into the neigh-

borhood and fulfilled Lou Ann's dream of renovating a beautiful Victorian home.

Gary is a Captain with the Richmond Police Department and in charge of the Major Crimes Division (you know, all the bad stuff like murder, arson, robbery, burglary, aggravated and sexual assaults, etc.). Living his childhood dream of being a police officer, Gary has a long and distinguished career with the Department, having served and protected the citizens of Richmond over 20 years.

But if Gary wasn't a dedicated police officer, he'd probably be creating and serving scrumptious home-cooked meals at his local restaurant.

Gary and Lou Ann are the proud parents of a 27-year-old son, two cats and a dog. (They gave up horses before moving back into the city.)

The Ladins enjoy jaunting around town to observe historical architectural details on

old buildings. Like many Forest Hill residents they frequent O'Toole's and Cielito Lindo for good eats. You may also spot the Ladins taking walks in the park with their Shih-Tzu.

Lou Ann is a talented writer, author and special events coordinator. She enjoys decorating her new home, reading and horses.

Gary's favorite book is *Sun Tzu, the Art of War* and his favorite movies are *Blazing Saddles* and *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

Gary draws daily inspiration from his Uncle Morton, who was born without the ability to hear or speak. Uncle Morton overcame these challenges and lived a long independent life. His picture is proudly displayed over Gary's desk as a reminder of what hard work and determination can conquer. Uncle Morton should be everyone's hero!

Welcome to Forest Hill Lou Ann and Gary!

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What Do I Get for 15 Bucks?

By Phil Licking
FHNA Webmaster

I asked this question for about four years. I knew there was a Neighborhood Association, but didn't really know what services they provided. Plus, I was never really the "association type" so I never joined.

Then I started noticing Forest Hill bumper stickers on a few cars. I found out I'd get a free sticker if I joined the FHNA. Well... it's an expensive bumper sticker, but it's for a good cause, right?

In just the past two years the FHNA has spent over \$25,000 on neighborhood projects and events, including:

- Music in the Park (ten concerts in '07 & '08, all free!)
- Forest Hill Park Gateway Sign (through a donation to Friends of Forest Hill Park)
- James River Park System

Trails (to help Ralph White buy his much-needed Muck Truck)

- Phideaux Field (improvements to our dog park at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church)
- 43rd Street Festival of the Arts sponsorship
- The Forest Hill Flyer and Website
- Plus donations to the Westover Hills Library, the Patrick Henry Charter School and the Richmond Police Department (for officer appreciation).

If you're already a member of the FHNA, kudos to you! You're helping to fund all of the above. If you're not a member, please consider joining. Memberships are a big part of our operating budget, and we want to keep giving back to the neighborhood... maybe even add to the list above. Did we mention you also get a pretty cool sticker?



Monica Rumsey (center) receives a Community Service Award for her years of advocacy for Forest Hill Park. The award was presented by Councilwoman Kathy Graziano. Monica is accompanied by her husband, Nicholas, who Mrs. Graziano thanked for lending his wife to the cause. Photo: Debra McClane

Friends of Forest Hill Park

Group Elects New Officers; Rumsey Honored for Service

By Debra McClane
FLYER Correspondent

At the regular meeting of the Friends of Forest Hill Park, held January 27, officers for 2009-2010 were elected.

Westover Hills neighbors Curry Nelms and Debra McClane will serve as co-presidents and Forest Hill resident Kathryn Skudlarek will serve as vice president. Suzette Lyon will remain on as the group's treasurer and Robin Ruth will continue as corresponding secretary. Michelle Virts was elected as the recording secretary.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to Stephanie Foertmeyer who has served in recent years as FFHP's co-president.

The group also honored

founding member and long-time president Monica S. Rumsey with a framed print of the Stone House and an engraved plaque commemorating the planting of a tree in the park in her honor.

On February 9, Richmond City Council honored Monica with a Community Service Award for her years of service on behalf of Forest Hill Park. The award was presented by Fourth District Councilwoman and Council President Kathy Graziano who thanked Monica for her commitment to the community.

For information on activities and upcoming meeting times please contact Curry Nelms cnelms@comcast.net or Debra McClane d_mcclane@hotmail.com.

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FOREST HILL FLYER

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We are seeking story ideas and article submissions for upcoming issues. Please send suggestions to flyereditor@foresthillneighborhood.com

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Previous editions of the FLYER are available electronically at www.foresthillneighborhood.com

EASEMENT

continued from page one
city government from selling the park or developing any part of it for commercial, industrial or residential purposes.

It leaves ownership of the park in city hands, and allows the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities to continue to manage the park in its present state.

"I believe the James River Park and the river are our most precious treasures," Council Member Graziano said "and I am so pleased Richmond City Council and Mayor Jones' administration have worked together to make sure

that future generations can enjoy this park."

"Men can make a playground or a ball field, but no one can craft something as vital and important as our park," she continued.

The easement will be held by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Capital Region Land Conservancy and the Richmond Recreation and Parks Foundation.

The idea for the easement came after a previous city administration attempted to sell a portion of Great Shiplock Park to a developer for a waterfront development in 2004.

KATHY GRAZIANO, 4TH DISTRICT CITY COUNCIL

Citizen Input Sought



There are not many places better to be than spring in Virginia. I know we are all glad to see winter pass.

Some important dates are coming soon:

The second South of the James Market is scheduled for May 2nd, and will run every Saturday through November. We have more than 40 vendors lined up, and Karen is making

some changes to make the market more attractive and more crowd-friendly.

Sunday in the Park with Friends is again scheduled for the third Sunday in July, and we are again looking for a great crowd to enjoy a great park.

In this report, I want to try something a little different. I usually report on the activities of my office or of city government. This time, I would like to ask you what you think, what your vision is for the next year. I would ask that we not talk about the usual things, leaf collection, potholes, etc. Instead, what is a broader vision for our district and our city? What should be our priorities? Where do you think we should go?

What can we together do to make your neighborhood more attractive? Especially, what can we do to make our schools more attractive?

Thanks for your thoughts and your support through the year.

kathy.graziano@richmondgov.com

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Westover Hills Library News

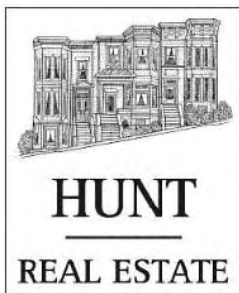
By Laura Dysart

Yuri's Night Event for all ages, Saturday, April 18, 7:00 p.m. Celebrate Yuri Gagarin, Russian-born astronaut, first in space! This is one of WHLAG's most popular events. Space crafts, pizza dinner, space documentaries, space books to check out, drawing for prizes, and weather permitting, the Richmond Astronomical Society sets up telescopes outside to gaze at the planets and stars!

National Library Worker's Day, Wednesday, April 15. Stop by the library and let the staff know how much they are appreciated. We are so lucky to have a branch right in our community with such wonderful, dedicated staff!

Stop by the library to pick up the monthly Check-It-Out brochure to find out about recent happenings at the library. Look out for children's story times, Wednesday Night Movies, and computer help for seniors.

Join the Westover Hills Library Advisory Group the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 am at the library. All are welcome.



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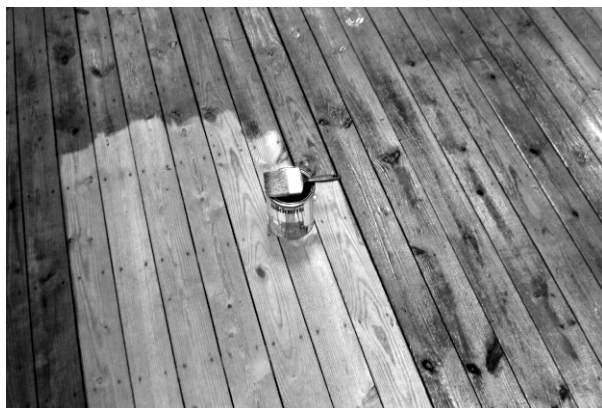
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Community Calendar

Neighborhood Dog Party

Canine revelry from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, April 18, hosted by the 43rd Street Gallery. Free paw prints for FHNA members.

Forest Hill Park Clean-Up

Saturday, April 18. Any-

one who wants to help pick up trash in the park can come to the Stone House starting at 10:30 am. Trash bags will be provided and the Friends of Forest Hill Park will be offering light refreshments.

South of the James Market

Now in its second year, the market will open for the season on Saturday, May 2, with hours from 8:00 am to Noon.

GARDENING

from page 4

ing with garden pests, but sometimes we just talked about whatever was going on with our gardens, sharing gardening tips and our challenges and successes. On occasion, we would have a guest speaker/expert (usually a friend of

one of the members) to talk about a particular aspect of gardening or give us a mini-lesson in pruning trees and shrubs." Viki continued.

So if you think you would be interested in an informal gardening group like this, please contact Viki at vikiatkinson@gmail.com.

Upcoming Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Meetings

May 13 • June 10 • July 8
7:00 PM • Forest Hill Presbyterian Church

George Wythe Reunion in June for Classes from 1969 to 1974

By Mark Person

The George Wythe High School class of 1974 is hosting an alumni celebration dinner/dance for classes 1969-1974 on June 13, 2009. All other alumni who wish to attend are also welcome.

Many George Wythe students attended nearby Patrick Henry Elementary School, Westover Hills, and Bainbridge Schools. This time in history brought many students together through Judge Mehri's landmark decision ordering desegregation by busing students to promote racial equality in education. It was the era of Woodstock, tie-dyed tee-shirts, Afros, halter tops, and bell bottoms. We had a great time.

Many students attended our neighborhood churches, played on the ball fields of nearby Patrick Henry School, and Fonticello Park. We rode

our sleighs at Forest Hill Park in the winter, keeping warm by the old fire, and played in the park the rest of the year.

George Wythe alumni include CEOs, doctors and other professionals, and mainstream Americans, many of whom have confirmed their intentions to attend the celebration. In addition to alumni, faculty members and coaches plan to attend.

In an effort to give back to the school, an alumni committee is sponsoring a scholarship and mentorship program for George Wythe High. In addition, another group of alumni is working to add new bleachers and a fence for the school.

If you would like to learn more about the alumni celebration, or about George Wythe alumni efforts, please contact me at 804-233-2610 or Randolph Shelton 804-737-8488.

Music In The Park
Forest Hill Park

May 10th ★ 6-8pm
Happy Lucky Combo
Mothers Day Music Inspired by Tango, Klezmer, Zydeco, Oriental...The Blues

June 14th ★ 6-8pm
Brian Jones Quartet
Traditional American Jazz

July 19th ★ 6-8pm
Southern Blues
Blues

August 9th ★ 6-8pm
Blue Line Highway
American • Folk Rock

September 13th ★ 5-7pm
Great White Jenkins
Alternative • Country

October 4th ★ 5-7pm
The Big Payback
Funk • Soul • R&B

Sponsored by the Forest Hill, Westover Hills and Woodland Heights Neighborhood Associations and the City of Richmond Parks and Recreation along with our corporate sponsors.