

sk Run Sees Big Turnout

The third Annual I Heart Tree 5K Fun Run was held March 12th, with a beautiful spring day bringing out a record crowd of approximately 230 participants. The race included runners, walkers, people pushing strollers, people with dogs, and lots of children.

The first male to cross the line was Brandon Aldich with an approximate time of 18:42. The leading female, Suzanne Spiller, finished in 22:51. And, in keeping with the dog-friendly nature of Forest Hill, the first canine across the line was "Keino" Butler at 24:42. The winning male and female runners won Chick-Fil-A for a year, while Keino got a chew toy and a box of dog treats!

All runners also received a goodie bag with coupons from our sponsors, and Chick-Fil-A provided yogurt parfaits. In addition to Chick-Fil-A of Stratford Hills, 43<sup>rd</sup> Street Gallery, Crust and

Cream, Friends of Forest Hill Park, O'Toole's Irish Pub, Richmond Waldorf School, Riverside Outfitters, Sneed's Nursery and Garden Center, South of James Market, and True Timber and Tree Service donated funds to make the event a success.

Starting and finishing at the Stone House, the course looped through the Forest Hill Neighborhood and around the lake in Forest Hill Park. Proceeds from the race will go toward supporting activities provided by the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association.



Forest Hill Neighborhood Association meetings held every second Thursday at 7:00 pm at The Stone House

We are seeking story ideas and articles for upcoming issues. Please send suggestions to martha\_cooper@verizon.net

For Ad Sales please contact Phil Licking at fhnaweb@gmail.com

#### Published by the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association

2011 Publication Dates July 1 - Ads/Articles Deadline 6/1/11 Sept. 1 - Ads/Articles Deadline 8/1/11 Dec. 1 - Ads/Articles Deadline 11/1/11



## PHSSA Presents Results of First Audit

Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts (PHSSA), Richmond's first charter school, is pleased to release the results of its first audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2010.

The audit, which was performed at the request of the PHSSA Board of Directors, was conducted by the independent accounting firm of Goodman & Company. Their audit report states:

"In our opinion, the financial statements [of PHSSA] present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts as of June 30, 2010, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

According to the accompanying management letter, Goodman & Company did not *"identify any deficiencies in internal control* 

that we consider to be material weaknesses."

The letter also states that the "Organization had a volunteer Treasurer during the year under audit. This volunteer appears to be a competent individual with a solid accounting background and a good understanding of accounting procedures."

Since the original Treasurer, Susan Martin, left the PHSSA Board in August 2010 at the end of her 3 year term, Goodman recommended that PHSSA hire an accountant to oversee the internal controls and accounting procedures put in place by the original Treasurer. On March 1st, by unanimous vote, the PHSSA Board hired an independent accountant for the remainder of the school year.

PHSSA is the first elementary charter school in Virginia. The school's charter was signed in May 2008. The school welcomed 150 children in kindergarten through fifth grade from all over the City of Richmond in August 2010.

Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts (PHSSA) is a kindergarten through fifth-grade school based on meaningful parent, educator, and community involvement. The school will provide the children of our diverse community with an academically rigorous science- and arts-based curriculum that emphasizes environmental awareness and social responsibility. See more at www.patrickhenrycharter.org.

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Paddle the 2nd Annual Forest Hill Yacht Club Regatta



The second annual celebration of the restoration of the Forest Hill Park Lake, an activity of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association, will take place at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 14. The Regatta will begin with a parade, the March of the Boscobel, from the Stone House to the lake where the Regatta will begin.

Leading up to the event, FHNA will be conducting a petition drive asking the Honorable Mayor Dwight Clinton Jones to declare Forest Hill Park Lake a great lake.

The Great Lakes are a collection of freshwater seas located in eastern North America and Canada consisting of Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron (Lake Michigan-Huron), **Forest Hill**, Erie, and Ontario.

Please check the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association web site for registration forms, to sign the petition and for other information about Regatta 2011.

#### Saturday, May 14 – Event schedule:

- 1 p.m. Boscobel Cup Parade led by last year's cup winners, with a brass band
- 1:30 Opening remarks (FHNA President Richard Day offers greeting and introductions, remarks from Mayor Dwight Jones, remarks from Kathy Graziano)
- 1:50 Regatta Begins

Youth Race Tube Race

- Remote Control Model Race
- Ping Pong Ball Race
- Dog Race
- Boscobel Cup Race (neighborhood and other teams)
- 2:30 Awards Ceremony







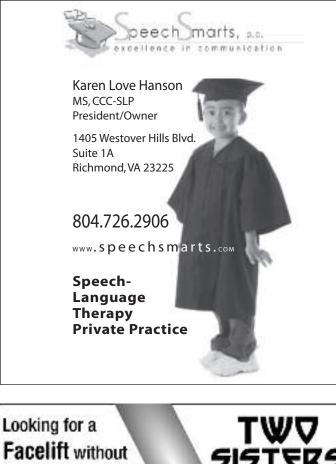
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Souther of the James, Wednesdays beginning April 6th Forest Hill Ave. Next to Blockbuster 9 am - 7 pm

South of the James, Forest Hill Park, Saturdays May 7 through December 3, 8 am - Noon







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Westover Hills Library Advisory Group

By Laura Dysart

If you haven't been in to see your newly renovated library- you must do so! You will want to grab a book or magazine and make yourself comfortable! The staff is excited to be back and the parking lot has been full!

**Save the Date: Yuri's Night** (a very popular annual event at the Westover Hills Library!) Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m.

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 (our celebration will be the 9<sup>th</sup> because Saturdays work better!) Come have a pizza dinner at the library, make space crafts, free drawing for cool "space stuff," 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 (not confirmed and weather dependent). 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.

Please join the Westover Hills Library Advisory Group- meetings are held the first Saturday of each month in the meeting room of the library at 9:00 a.m. Visit www.whlag.org for more information.

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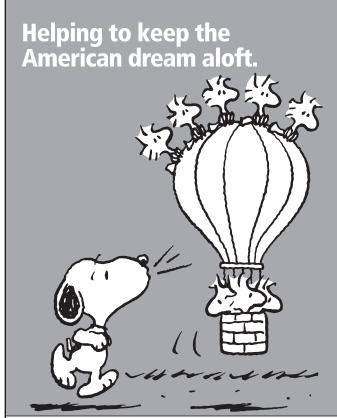
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Forest Hill Park Family Connection Spans Generations

#### by Linda Mills

Forest Hill Park has been a constant in Phyllis Woody's life for the past eight decades. Growing up in the nearby Oak Grove neighborhood, she was just a short bus ride or walk from the park's tree-lined paths and shady spots. She took full advantage of it in her youth, sharing dozens of Sunday picnics with friends.

"I remember my mother talking about riding the street car to the amusement park for dates." Phyllis says. So when Phyllis and her beau Russell were looking for a romantic spot in 1939, they would visit the park just as her mother and father had done. But they didn't need an amusement park. "We'd sit on the benches and hold hands," she says with a grin.

Those idyllic dates in the park eventually led to marriage. But it wasn't a direct route. In early 1941, Russell enlisted in the National Guard for one year, or so he thought. "He was supposed to be out in 1942. But he didn't get back until 1945. When war broke out, he was immediately drafted into the army. He gave me a ring before he shipped overseas," Phyllis says. "One of his officers told Russell that if he re-enlisted, he'd make him a lieutenant right then. But Russell said no, he'd been making his girl wait for four years and was going home."

Russell and Phyllis married shortly after his return and set up housekeeping in Oak Grove. They soon had two boys, Jim and Rick.

"My boys grew up going to Forest Hill Park. We went there all the time. We'd go there to sled whenever it snowed. We'd walk up there with the dog."

Then on Halloween night, 1968, the Woody's moved into their house on West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street near Reedy Creek. When neighbors welcomed them and trick or treaters showed up at their door as they carried in boxes, they knew this new neighborhood would be the perfect home.

Shortly after they moved, Phyllis took a part-time job at Thalhimers gift wrap desk. Eventually, Phyllis moved into what she describes as "the perfect job." She became a personal shopper at the downtown Thalhimers. "People would call or write and tell me what they wanted. They'd tell me their budget. Then I would choose the items and send them out. I loved it." And she especially loved the interesting people she met.

"I really liked working with the folks from the Foreign Mission Board who would shop at Thalhimers when they were on furlough. One woman I worked with wrote me from Africa that her daughter needed a graduation outfit. I picked out the dress, shoes, slip, hose—everything—and sent it to her. Later, I was called into Mr. Thalhimer's office. I wondered what I'd done," she says with a smile. "He wanted to tell me that he'd gotten a letter from the woman saying how everything fit her daughter perfectly and she wanted to tell him what a good job I was doing."

Phyllis continues, "And working with Mrs. Godwin was exciting." That's Mrs. Mills E. Godwin, Jr., the first lady of Virginia from 1966-70 and 1974-78. She chose Phyllis as her go-to girl at Thalhimers. Phyllis would select the items Mrs. Godwin asked for, and when she was finished. the



Russell Woody and Phyllis court in Forest Hill Park in 1939.

governor's wife would send a car so Phyllis could deliver the packages.

"She was delightful," Phyllis says. "She showed me around the mansion, and lots of times we would sit and talk while she chose the items she wanted. She gave me a Virginia scarf that I still have."

In 1980, Phyllis and Russell retired so they could travel together. They made good use of their time—trekking to Florida, going on cruises and relaxing at their cabin in Deltaville. "We had seven good years of retirement," she says. Russell passed away in 1987.

Although Phyllis doesn't traverse the park regularly these days, her grandchildren and great grandchildren do. "There are five generations of our family who have enjoyed Forest Hill Park," she says. And Phyllis herself recently had a chance to visit again when a neighbor took her to see how the lake area has been revitalized.

"I was thrilled to go," she says. "We stayed awhile and looked at the lake and I could see all that had been done. The lake had started to be kind of dirty with plants growing in it even when we went there years ago. Now it's just beautiful! Russell would love it. That park meant so much to him, too. He loved this area so much."

FHNA Changes Leadership

#### By Martha Cooper

Changes are happening in the Forest Hill Neighbor Association (FHNA) as new officers take over for the year. At the February meeting, those present voted and approved the slate.



**Richard Day** is the new president replacing Grace LeRose. Grace had served in the position for three years, giving a lot of time and energy to the post. "I will not be president for life!" she announced, and Richard kindly took on the job.

Richard and his wife, Rosemary Bourne, an assistant attorney general, moved to Richmond from Baltimore in 1997. Rosemary grew up in Richmond. At first they lived in Woodland Heights, but now live on 41st Street in a house they have spent much time renovating. They graciously included their home in Forest Hills' house tour.

"We have a nine year old son, Liam, and a seven year old son, Luke. Both play soccer, have battles, and basically harass each other. We love them very much," Richard said of his children. His interest in children and education lead him to be to organize efforts to create the Patrick Henry School, Richmond's first ever charter school, and the first elementary charter in Virginia.

Richard has many interests and commented, "I play squash...a lot. I ride my hybrid mountain bike in Forest Hill Park with a few neighbors as often as we can get together. During the summer I make salsa, and we all make preserves. I have around 3500 vinyl records, and yes, I play them." He works as a mortgage lender, specializing in renovation loans.

"What I love about Richmond," he said are, "the river; the Folk Festival; the bike trails; the old architecture; this neighborhood; our park; the Byrd; World or Mirth; and Eggs in Tuna Sauce at 8 1/2."



As vice president, **Luke McCall** will take over from Pete Hubbel. Luke and his family moved to Forest Hill in 2006. Luke declares he is the unofficial mayor of 45<sup>th</sup> Street. Luke works as an arborist for the City of Richmond. He and his wife Jennifer, a physical therapist, have two "energetic young boys, five-year old Jude and three-year old Abraham.

"I enjoy most active outdoor pursuits that are centered on the river, including mountain biking, trail running, paddling, and climbing." Luke reported. "And I love the neighborhood's strong community, its wonderfully diverse architecture, and its proximity to the James River. Those are just a few of the many reasons we came to and continue to enjoy Forest Hill. I am deeply committed to the on-going improvement of our neighborhood and the city at large, and I hope to help develop opportunities for our residents to get involved and have fun!"

**Vicky Hamrick** agreed to continue in her job as secretary, a position she has held for five years. Vicky is a strong believer in



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volunteerism and has been very active in many of the events sponsored by the Forest Hill Association. She moved to the neighborhood in 2001. Vicky works as a paralegal in a small law firm, but is also a professional musician. She plays oboe in the Williamsburg Symphonia and other chamber music ensembles. In addition to her two careers, Vicky loves to cook and bake, and hang out with her husband Bob. "We got married in our back yard in 2004," she said. Vicky and Bob share their home with their dogs Tatum and Mandy.

Asked why she continued in her volunteer job when she had two paying ones, she responded. "I volunteered because this is where I live and I want to do my part to help make this a great neighborhood. I am really inspired by the all the amazing talent and creativity that's been a part of the association the last several years. I would like to encourage others to come out and share their talents and ideas. That's how we get house tours and Music in the Park and house flags and 5K races and I'm just waiting for the next great idea!"

**Zac Sheldon** is the new treasurer taking over from Roger Clark, who has served in that position for many years. Zac and his wife Katie moved to Springhill in 2007, came to an



association meeting and proposed having a 5K race. The two of them organized the event and continued to lead it until this year when becoming new parents took up their extra hours. The 5K has been an exciting part of Forest Hill's community sponsored events.

Zac and Katie moved to Richmond from Columbus, Ohio, but both are from Georgia where they met in college. "When we moved to Richmond, we knew we wanted to live near a park and in a neighborhood with charm," Zac said. "We got lucky and ended up with both."

Zac works as tax auditor with Henrico County, and Katie is a pharmacist/manager at MCV. They have a one-year old son named Henry, and two three-year old Labradors, Mollie and Callie.

Other changes in volunteers include Brent Tennefoss, handing over his layout and design skills to create the Flyer, to Bo Williams. Brent created a new design for the flyer and made it a more upscale publication. He has been on the job for years. He will continue contributing his photo skills by providing pictures for the newsletter. Bo is a Forest Hill resident who lives on Riverside Drive. His company, Total Printing, publishes the Flyer.

The board of directors for the association are Janet Bowers, Sue Cline, Dena Fultz, Dorna Braswell, Social Committee Chair; Martha Cooper, Flyer Editor; Robley Jones, Regatta Chair; and Phil Licking, Webmaster.

More volunteers are needed to keep the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association going strong. Dorna Braswell chairs the social committee. She needs people to help at most events. The Forest Hill Flyer needs help with circulation and writing articles. A volunteer application is soon to be posted on the neighborhood website at www.Foresthillneighborhood.com.





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From our Council Woman

Dear Neighbors,

Our yards tell us that it is Spring, and none too soon.

This year, there will be fewer big projects in our neighborhood, but several are on the horizon. We had resurfacing done on several streets last year, but I am not aware of any additional projects this summer.

The project for a new Huguenot High School is well under way, with plans calling for the construction to take place on the east side of the current school, so that the school will not be closed at any time, except normal breaks.

The plan to widen Forest Hill Avenue from Powhite Parkway to just east of Hathaway is also moving forward, with construction to start early next year. Plans are not complete, but call for two lanes in each direction, lower speed limits, sidewalks and bike lanes on each side of the street.

The Huguenot Bridge project is well under way and will take about two years to complete. The old bridge will remain in service during construction. The new bridge will have a 12-foot travel lane in each direction, along with a 10-foot breakdown lane in each direction when complete.

By the time you read this, we will be well into our budget consideration process. Revenue projections for the local level call for very austere revenues for the next four years, leaving even greater challenges ahead of us.



The year, working with Richmond Public Schools, we have tried a new approach. We scheduled two

open houses for parents and children in the district, providing a chance for people living in the community to meet and greet teachers and administrators from our three elementary schools. The first was in December at Southampton Elementary, and was very well attended. The second was at J. B. Fisher on February 8<sup>th</sup>, and also drew a good group. Richmond elementary schools are meeting all state standards for SOLs, each has an approved foreign language program, and each has special offerings to make the schools attractive as a good choice for our children. If you did not make it to one of the open houses, call the principals at the school and schedule a tour. You'll be pleasantly surprised.

Thanks for the support you have provided during the year, and remember that the South of the James Farmer's Market opens May 7<sup>th</sup> at Forest Hill Park.

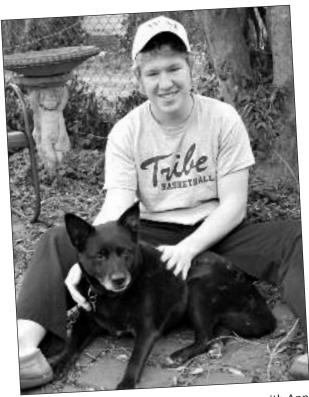
Kathy





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Spot makes his home on Stonewall Avenue with Ann and Matthew Gill.

Celebrity Pooch Spot

My name is Spot and yes, I do have one-hidden under my chin. I will be 17 years old in June, that's 112 human years, and I consider myself the matriarch of the hood. I am a black lab mixmaybe part cougar as indicated by my affair with Django MacPhee.

I was adopted when I was 2 years old by my "mother" Ann and "brother" Matthew. I was a bit of a wild child in my youth escaping the yard by jumping over the fence, overzealously interacting with other dogs, cats and humans, and breaking dishes while getting food off of the kitchen counter. However, I have had only one legal encounter and that was for barking????

I enjoy tug of war, long walks in the neighborhood and hiding under the deck. My claims to fame are having won the raffle at 43rd St. festival as my mother enters my name as she thinks I have the best karma in the family and my brother dedicated his senior project to me as I was by his side throughout the wee hours as he completed it.

I would like to thank the academy/ aka Forest Hill Association, my family, neighbors and friends for this prestigious honor.



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Did you know? Historic Designation for Forest Hill

By Carolyn Paulette

Reedy Creek has provided an eastern and southern boundary for Forest Hill for more than two centuries appearing on an early map of Byrd's Falls Plantation dated 1701.

The oldest house in Forest Hill, Maplecrest has a construction date circa 1815.

The Richard Archer family that owned Maplecrest on New Kent Avenue for most of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century also owned 3 islands in the James River named Archer's Islands.

Three quarries located north of Riverside Drive and two located in Forest Hill Park provided work for many residents in Richmond and Forest Hill in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Both a grist mill and a cotton factory were built along the James River in the 1800s.

The first plat for development in Forest Hill was filed in 1895 for the area west and north of Reedy Creek to  $44^{\rm th}$  St. and Smithdeal Avenue.

A number of houses in Forest Hill were constructed prior to 1890 including houses on  $42^{nd}$  St,  $43^{rd}$  St, Dunston Ave., and New Kent. Many houses in Forest Hill were built as clapboard houses and later covered in stucco.

The small white church on  $41^{st}$  St. was once a one-room school house that was

converted into a church in 1910 to be used for Sunday School classrooms for Good Shepherd Church.

The Forest Hill Historic Designation Committee will file their application with the Department of Historic Resources again in June, 2011.



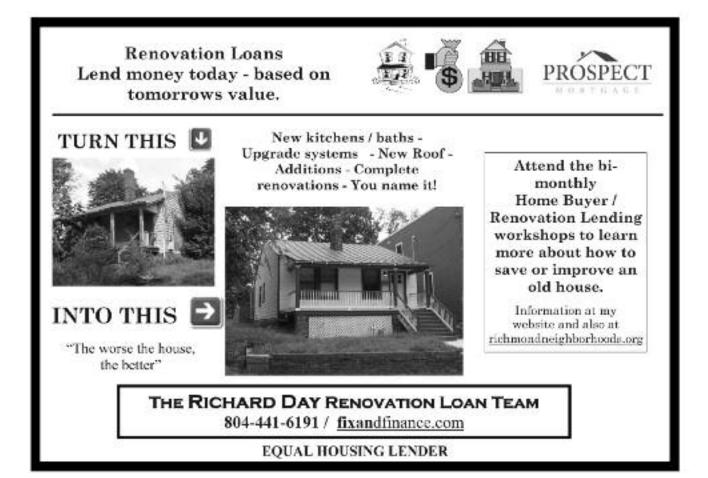
## The Iditarod - Three Times

Karen Land, three time Iditarod Racer, and Borage, her sled dog, visit the Good Shepherd Episcopal School in March

Good Shepherd Episcopal School was fortunate to have Karen Land with her sled dog Borage come talk to the school about her three Iditarod racing experiences. The Iditarod is an annual dog sled race across Alaska's wilderness beginning in Anchorage and ending in Nome, about 1049 miles, which takes 8-15 days to complete. Karen has a deep love of nature and love of dogs. Karen brought the actual sled she rode during the Iditarod for the children to see. Borage, her retired sled dog was a huge hit with everyone. He freely roamed the library getting lots of loving attention.

Karen was funny, inspirational, educational, and a fabulous speaker. Karen helped both a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, and Kindergarten teacher prepare for an Iditarod by putting on 50 pounds of clothing and Iditarod gear- layer by layer! She plans to write a book in the near future and to eventually run the Iditarod again. Karen, originally from Indiana, and currently living in Montana, was initially inspired by a Gary Paulsen book she picked up while hiking the Appalachian Trail with her dog, changing her life forever. Children grades Pre-Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade all studied the Iditarod, Alaska, and sled dogs prior to her visit. The timing was perfect as her visit came the day after Jon Baker won the 2011 Iditarod, breaking an all time speed record. Students had been following the 2011 Iditarod day by day. Karen really brought what the students learned to life! Karen has shared her story to schools, libraries and businesses throughout the country over 900 times! Karen specifically commented on what a wonderful park Forest Hill Park was. She, Borage, her two pet dogs, and her dog nanny all spent some time playing and running in the park.





## Turn Your Trash Into Cash!

## Forest Hill Neighborhood Yard Sale

## Saturday $\cdot$ June 4th $\cdot$ 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

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 for more information.





So You Want to be a Gardner ...

#### By Viki Atkinson

So you finally have a home with a little bit (or a lot) of dirt just waiting to be turned into billowing flower borders full of riotous color. Or maybe you're dreaming of a vegetable garden teeming with tomatoes and cucumbers and peppers. The only problem is that you know absolutely nothing about gardening.

The **Forest Hill Gardeners** can help. We are a group of people interested in gardening who get together the third Sunday of the month at 5:30pm. This is not a traditional "garden club" but more like a book club for gardeners. We're very laid back and welcome both beginners and experienced gardeners. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, we'll be having our second annual plant swap. For more details, please email Viki Atkinson at vikiatkinson@gmail.com.

Getting started on gardening can be a little daunting, so here are a few things to keep in mind as you work on developing your green thumb:

**Don't bite off more than you can chew.** Don't expect to have a completely landscaped property the first year. Choose one section of your property and create a small garden bed that won't overwhelm you while you're learning. If your thing is vegetables, don't plow up the entire back yard. Start small and limit your first year to easy-to-grow choices: tomatoes, lettuce, spinach, etc.

Accept the limitations of your gardening space. Don't try to plant a sunny garden if you have a wooded lot. If your property doesn't get at least six hours of full sun each day, don't expect to have a vegetable garden.

**Choose "beginner" plants.** Don't take on fussy hybrid tea roses your first gardening year. There are plenty of easy-to-grow, "bullet-proof" plants that will help you succeed your first gardening year.

Find a gardening mentor...or two or three. As you stroll through your neighborhood, it will be easy to spot the real gardeners. It will also be easy to catch them working in their gardens. Strike up a conversation and ask them if you can take advantage of their experience. If there's a gardening group in your area, join in. You'll enjoy the camaraderie, you'll learn a lot, and when your fellow gardeners with established gardens are dividing their perennials, you'll get some free plants.

**Find a knowledgeable garden retailer.** Although they have good prices, the big box home improvement stores are not always going to have staff that can answer your gardening questions. Focus instead on stores that specialize in gardening and have staff who can advise you about the plants that will work well in your climate like Great Big Greenhouse, Strange's, Sneeds Nursery and Southern States.

**Surf the net.** The internet can be a wonderful resource for the novice gardener. Not only can you Google "plants for shady areas", but there are also gardening forums on sites like Garden Web where you can pick the brains of fellow gardeners.

**Go on tour**. Take advantage of garden tours and public gardens in your area. This is a great way to get ideas for your own garden. You'll learn about different garden styles and which ones you like, and you can also learn what plants combinations work well together. Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens and Maymont are great places to see beautiful plantings, and there are neighborhood garden tours in Richmond almost every weekend starting in April and going through to the first week in June.

**Don't be discouraged by gardening failures**. Even if you choose socalled foolproof plants, at some point something that you've planted will die. It's just a fact. Whether it's due to drought or planting the wrong plant in the wrong place, it's going to happen. And you can learn a lot from what *doesn't* work.

**Keep a garden journal**. This can be as simple as jotting down in a spiral notebook what plants you bought, when and where you planted them, and noting when things bloomed and which plants did or didn't do well. This will come in handy in subsequent years when you're ready to expand your garden and you want to buy more of that plant (what was it called?) that bloomed so beautifully all through last summer.

**Enjoy the process.** It's great to harvest that first tomato or pick the first blooms to make a bouquet. But it's also fun to plant a seed and watch for the first little green shoots to emerge. There's satisfaction to be had from simply clearing the ground to create a new garden bed.

So get out there and get digging—-before you know it, you'll be handing out gardening advice yourself.

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