



Work on improvements to the pedestrian path on the north end of Forest Hill Lake began the week of Thanksgiving. The project is expected to take about 30 days to complete. Photo: Brent Tennefoss

City Begins Work on Path Affected by Runoff

The City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities (DPU) has retained the Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP, engineering firm to make improvements to Forest Hill Park. The pedestrian path north of the bridge over Forest Hill Lake is in need of repair. The design includes installation of a retaining wall made of large overlapping stones as well as restoration to the surface of the pedestrian path. Further down the path, improvements will be put in place to convey stormwater under the pedestrian path.

What is the purpose of the project? The Forest Hill Park-Pedestrian Pathway Project includes restoration of a section of trail that was washed out during a heavy storm event. This area has been a hazard for pedestrians that the city would like to alleviate. Also included in this project is the installation of a new triple 24" culvert to convey stormwater under the trail

in Forest Hill Park. This section that is approximately 150 feet north of the bridge is constantly inundated with stormwater runoff. With the addition of the culverts park patrons will enjoy dryer feet while traveling through Forest Hill Park.

How long will it take?

Overall, the project will require approximately 30 days to complete.

How will this effect my

walking or biking? During the course of construction, pedestrian and biker access within the construction area will be restricted. Proper signage and barriers will be put in place to maintain safety for the residents and the construction workers.

Will this project impact my property? There will be no impacts to private property. All construction will be taking place within Forest Hill Park.

Westover Hills Library Renovation Complete, Reopens December 6th

The Westover Hills Library has undergone a complete makeover in the six or so months that the branch has been closed for renovation.

After the long wait, locals can soon see the results and start using the 51-year-old facility again.

At press time the grand reopening is scheduled for 4:00 pm on Monday, December 6, with an appearance by Mayor

Dwight C. Jones to mark the occasion.

The library will remain open until 8:00 pm that evening commencing business as usual.

Patrons can create an account on the Richmond Public Library web site and have books located elsewhere in the system delivered to the Westover Hills branch for convenient pickup.

Historic Designation Committee Files Nomination

By Carolyn Paulette
FLYER Correspondent

The Historic Designation Committee filed its nomination for historic designation with the Department of Historic Resources on September 1, 2010.

During September and October the committee members revised the text and negotiated the terms of the nomination weekly with the DHR staff, but were unable to complete everything to DHR's satisfaction to take the nomination to the State Review Board and the Historic Resources Board in December.

Instead, the committee continues to research and augment the story of the development of the area beginning with some of the first plans for subdivision developments in Woodland Heights and Forest Hill as early as 1862, and, possibly, 1848.

After the Civil War the Holden Rhodes' estate became a centerpiece for the two subdivisions. The Southside Land and Development Company created an amusement park on the Rhodes' property to attract people to come to Woodland Heights and Forest Hill. The trolley car system which ended at 41st St. was brought to Forest Hill to give potential residents a cheap means of transportation to the subdivisions.

John Cullen Robertson who owned the most eastern part of the Forest Hill Historic District along Brookside Road, was the manager for the Southside Land and Devel-

continued on page 12

Grace Notes

Thinking About Family

by Grace LeRose, FHNA President

On a recent trip to Italy, I stood on the piazza where my grandfather took one last look into the green valley below before he left for America. Almost 100 years ago, he left his home in the gently rolling hills of southwest Italy and made his way to America when he was barely 18. He was an orphan by age five and looked after by his sisters. The valley had a few stone houses among the neatly arranged fields, white smoke from the chimneys billowing out. The green land was chopped into neat squares of planted crops and rows of olive and citrus trees. It was serene, even beautiful. As I looked over this dreamy landscape, I wondered what was going through his mind as he left his home. Was he excited to go? Was he apprehensive about leaving his family?

Family is very important to Italians – they honor their elders and cherish their babies. My grandfather created his family anew in America – marrying my grandmother and raising seven children together. Visits to their house with my cousins were filled with food, love, and laughter. And lots of yelling!

This time of year always finds me thinking of families. My grandfather experienced different families throughout his life – his mom and dad for the early part, his sisters for his childhood, his time alone in a new country and finally with my grandmother and their own children and grandchildren.

One of the great things about our neighborhood is the creativity in forming our own families. My friend down the street loves her dog Ben like a child. He may even have more toys than a few of the kids on his block! John and Judy welcomed Judy's mother to come and live with them and their two children. Harold and Kathy's girls have grown up and now their grandsons come to visit. Adam and Mike were the brothers who always seemed to be there for me.

I hope this holiday season finds you with family and dear friends. Whether your family was born or built doesn't matter – only the love and laughter do.

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FLYER

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Safe for the Holidays

Simple But Effective Rules

By David Hathcock and
Shannon Taylor

Sometimes it is difficult during the holiday season to remember personal and home security. At this time of year, though, crimes against people and property are especially common, so we need to remind ourselves to take care of our selves and our belongings.

First, keep your doors locked. Keep your home doors locked and keep your car doors locked. Keep the doors locked when you are home and when you are away. Keep the car locked when you are driving and when you are parked in your own driveway.

If you are going to be away for an extended period over the holidays' notify the police precinct (form available on line), so they can keep a closer eye on your home. www.richmondgov.com/Police/documents/HWBW.pdf. This form should be mailed, faxed or delivered to 3rd Precinct, 301 S. Meadow Street, phone: 646-1412, fax: 646-1630.

Also, tell a trusted neighbor to watch out for your home and make arrangements for mail and newspaper deliveries to be stopped or have someone collect them for you.

When your car is parked in a mall lot or in front of your home, keep personal items out of sight. Take phones and GPS's and other electronic devices in the house with you. Try to scrub off the ring left on the windshield from your GPS device; this is a dead give away that a GPS unit is in the car. Both you and the insurance company are going to be unhappy if you leave your belongings in an unlocked car.

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Think about security lights for your front and back yards, especially if you live on an alley. They are cheap and will deter those who like the darkness.

Think about your own safety at night. Walk or jog in pairs, wear a reflective vest, and carry a light and cell phone.

None of these suggestions require big changes in our life styles, but they can collectively make your holiday safer, happier and less stressful.

Patrick Henry School Signs Lease

The Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts (PHSSA) Board of Directors and Richmond Public School Board finalized and signed the lease on the Patrick Henry Building on November 23, 2010.

The facility will be the permanent location for PHSSA when renovations are completed. The school currently operates out of Woodland Heights Baptist Church Education Center, located at 611 West

31st Street, approximately three blocks from the Patrick Henry Building.

The rent on the building will be one dollar a year. PHSSA Board delivered payment for the first year of rent along with the signed lease.

"This is a significant turning point for the PHSSA board, staff and families that have been waiting for months to get these details finalized," said Sharon Burton, PHSSA

President. "We are anxious to get started on hiring contractors and obtaining permits to get the construction underway in the late winter/early spring timeframe."

PHSSA is planning on renovating the building in three phases. The first phase will include the lower library level, the cafeteria level, the first level of classrooms and an administrative area to accommodate about 200 students for the 2011-12 school year.

The later two phases include the auditorium, the second level of classrooms and the west wing of the basement.

Renovations include upgrading the building so that it is ADA compliant, life safety upgrades, as well as electrical and HVAC updates. The estimated cost of building upgrades is approximately \$1 million.



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A Few of My Featured Listings:



Welcome To 4929 Southmoor Road

This charming 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath colonial priced \$49,000 below assessment is situated on a quiet 1.2 acres. The triple tier decks overlook a mature wooded lot and falling creek.



Welcome To 8140 Ammonett Drive

With plenty of space and just moments away from the James River, Stony Point Fashion Park, Carytown, Midlothian and being off Forest Hill Road you can be anywhere, anytime!



Welcome To 606 Shelton Bend Drive

This charming Arts & Crafts custom home, modeled after the Gamble House in Pasadena is nestled on 5.9 acres on the South Anna River.

Neighborhoods Fare Better in Uncertain Real Estate Market

By Dan Hunt
FLYER Contributor

The real estate market continues to be filled with uncertainty.

Currently in zip code 23225, there are 210 active listings ranging in price from \$5,000 to \$1,295,000, and only 37 pending listings (under contract) ranging from \$39,900 to \$374,950.

Most of the sold and pending properties this year are in the \$150,000 to \$300,000 range.

Prices have fallen from 2007 levels in varying degrees depending on the type of home and the neighborhood. With the large number of listings available, buyers are looking for great deals.

However, if priced competitively, the buyers are there and can see the value. If a property is overpriced, then it will sit on the market and

likely receive lower offers, if any are made at all.

The condition of the home is also key to a faster sale. Two listings in Forest Hill recently received multiple offers fairly quickly because they were priced right and were in good to excellent condition.

It's difficult for many sellers, particularly those who have purchased in the last

five years, to realize that their homes are worth less than what they paid.

City tax assessments were all raised in the last five years and many are way above current market value.

Our area encompasses many different neighborhoods. Foreclosures exist in some, but for the most part, our core neighborhoods of Westover Hills, Woodland Heights and Forest

Hill have been spared the plight that a lot of the country is experiencing.

Baby boomers are coming back to the city after raising their children in the suburbs. Many used to live here and are eager to come back to our character laden neighborhoods.

Young professionals are another profile of buyer that tends to prefer our area.

Huguenot Bridge Replacement to Begin Soon

By Jerry Miller
FLYER Correspondent

After years of discussions and active endorsement of area civic associations, the Huguenot Bridge will finally be replaced.

This past September, the Commonwealth Transportation Board authorized a contract award to SKANSKA USA Civil Southwest Inc (a Virginia

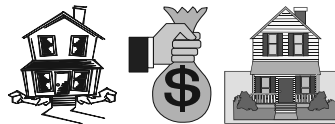
Beach firm) to commence with the survey and related site work.

Work should get started in the next couple of weeks. The first noticeable change will be the construction of causeways in the river to support the new bridge work.

The bridge is expected to take approximately two-and-a-half years to construct. During

this time, the bridge will remain open to through traffic. Occasionally, lane closures may be needed to support the work. Pedestrian traffic will be accommodated with the addition of wider sidewalks on both sides. The new Huguenot Bridge will have an open rail system that will allow for views of the river while driving across the bridge.

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

The Flyer Profile:

Celebrity Pooch

Lucy Mills

What's your age and heritage? As near as anyone can figure, I will be six years old this December. Because I was found wandering in the woods as a pup, no one really knows my exact age. And they don't know what mix of breeds I am either—but there has to be a big dose of beagle!

Who are your humans? Ian, Kendall, Linda and David Mills

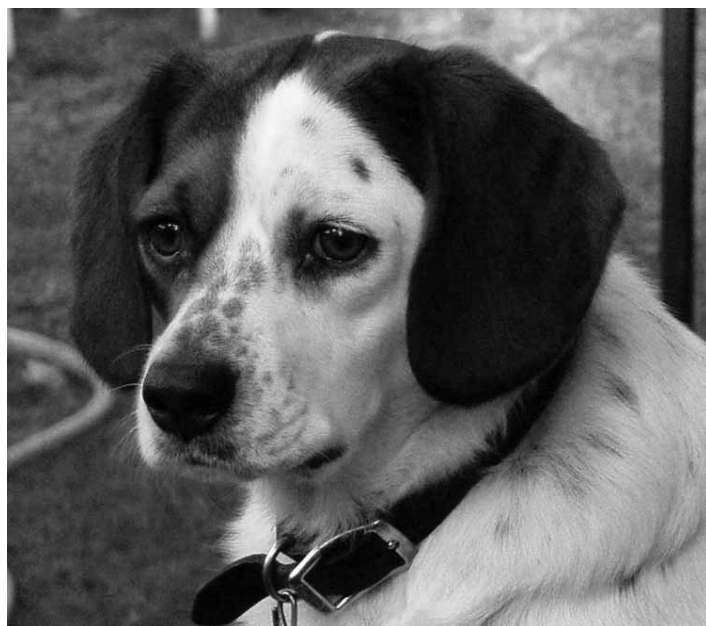
Where and when did you

find your home? I was being fostered by some nice people from B.A.R.K. One day the lady walked me to Fox Elementary to pick up her human children. A boy came running over to me. It was my boy, Ian. He loved me at first sight and the family adopted me soon after. That was a little more than five years ago.

What is your favorite toy? If someone gives me a stuffed squeaky toy, I rip out the stuffing until I find the squeaker, then I carry the empty "skin" around for weeks. Cool, huh? I also like to chew on nylabones.

What is your best trick? Every morning I try to convince each person in the family that no one else has given me my morning chew treat. Sometimes it works and I get two or three!

What are your best traits and favorite things? I am sweet and kind and usually



obedient. I love people and other dogs. I will play with bigger dogs and smaller dogs and have lots of furry friends in the neighborhood (not squirrels!) I just made friends with the cat across the street, Tut. He comes in the yard and

we play until I get tired of him jumping on my head. Cats! My favorite thing to do is to lay in a sunny spot in the yard and sniff the wind. And of course, there's watching people while they cut up chicken.



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Route 1 Odyssey Inspires Neighborhood Artist to Fuse Styles



Inspired by his sabbatical along Route 1, Steve Hedberg produced a collection of pieces for a show that ended in early December. Photo: Adam Ewing

By Linda T. Mills
FLYER Correspondent

As a child who grew up in a family stationed overseas, local artist Steve Hedberg moved around a lot, mainly in the Middle East and West Africa. This led to what he calls his "deep-seated need to travel."

Compelled by his passion for travel and his artistic muse, Steve, a painter with a BFA in Communication Arts and Design from VCU, journeyed from Maine to Florida this past summer. He took time off from his job at Richmond Magazine where he has served as Creative Director for

ten years to complete his artistic excursion. During two weeks of intense travel, Steve drove along U.S. Route 1 for 2500 miles. He shot more than 5000 photos, interviewed dozens of people who still live along the road, and filmed the entire trip with a video camera taped to the dashboard of his car.

"This is the most documented point in my life," Steve says with a smile. The road that is now U.S. Route 1 has been a path of travel under various names and numbers since colonial times. In the early 1900's, this artery through the East Coast's major cities received its modern designation. But with the construction of the Interstate Highway System which began in the 1950's, much of Route 1 was bypassed by I-95.

"There is a melancholy overtone to Route 1," Steve acknowledges, "but the folks I met along the way helped me identify with the true spirit of the road. The people were friendly and their stories helped me see beyond the rusted signs and old buildings. It's a very honest road that shares many decades of a changing society, and is peppered with relics from its heyday alongside the fast food joints and chain stores."

This is what fascinated Steve. It's what led him to stay behind the wheel for hour after hour, coming home exhausted and road weary after his two-week sabbatical. It also led him further along his current artistic path.

"I used to paint realism and abstract completely separately. I created the abstract work as a release from the tight details of realism. This is my first endeavor fusing the two," Steve says. "I wanted to let both styles influence a new style, give it an expressionistic quality that almost feels like a memory."

And by all accounts he has succeeded in producing not just exciting paintings, but an inspiring multimedia collage of Route 1. Steve opened a major show on September 3, 2010, at Glave Kocen Gallery which ran through September 28, 2010. The show exhibited the paintings he created inspired by his north to south journey, as well as video interviews of people he met along the way and a stream of images recorded from his dashboard.

"I enjoy telling stories through my work and thinking beyond the painting and about the sensory experience of the gallery viewer," Steve says. "I'm looking forward to more projects like this down the road."

But for now, Steve is happy to relax in his Stonewall Avenue backyard with his wife, Debbie, watching their daughters Claire and Sophie play. As a family they feed the birds, walk to the market on Saturdays, and ride bicycles along the shady streets near the park.

Steve loves the neighborhood and often paints its scenes of charm and character. It could just be, that after eight years on Stonewall Avenue, Steve may have finally put down roots.

If you missed his show in September, there are many places you can view Steve's work. At his website, www.stevhedberg.com, you can see not only a variety of his paintings, but also a PBS Virginia Currents piece on Steve's Route 1 exhibit. You'll find his segment at 13:55 minutes into the program. In addition, he has donated paintings to the Patrick Henry Holiday Online Auction which runs from November 14-December 5.

Linda Mills is a freelance writer who has walked across Forest Hill Ave. to the park for 26 years.



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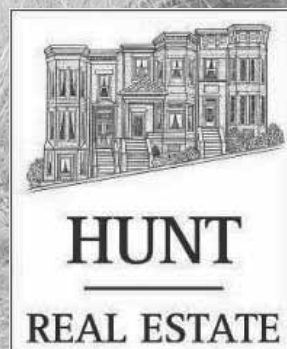
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Know Your Neighbor

Love of Cooking and Therapy Expertise Leads to New Venture

By Martha Cooper
FLYER Editor

"Making bread is a great way to teach anger management," said Forest Hill resident Allison Carver, a licensed therapist. Allison, who deals mostly with young people, has launched a new enterprise, A Taste of Therapy, to combine cooking with therapy.

"Children don't open up quickly in an office setting," Allison said. "I wanted to find a way to ease them into getting the help they needed."

By designing menus to target particular problems, she hopes to gain insights that will help her be more effective with treatments for her clients. For example, she can apply therapeutic messages regarding anger management

while mixing, stirring, kneading, and waiting for bread to rise.

"Cooking is a creative experience," she commented. "It is much like art therapy. People can cook together, learn new skills, improve communications, and have a good time doing it."

Allison also sees opportunities to use her combination of expertise – cooking and therapy – in other areas such as team building, group functions, couples nights, and business activities.

Allison works as a licensed therapist. She holds a Masters Degree from the University of Virginia in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and earned a certificate from the University of Richmond's Culinary



Therapist Allison Carver at home on New Kent Avenue. Photo: Brent Tennefoss

Arts Program.

"I've always loved cooking," she said. "And I think this is a great way to combine helping people with something I love to do."

Some topics A Taste of Therapy offers in addition to anger management are communications for couples, and recreating the family dinner.

Allison reports that recent studies on the importance of families eating dinner together have shown that over 72% of teenagers who eat with their families would go to their parents to talk if they had a problem.

In addition, similar studies have shown that teenagers who have family dinner together five times a week are 45% less likely to drink and 66% less likely to do drugs. "I can help people manage their family dinners and make it fun," Allison said.

Allison and her husband,

Ben, moved to Forest Hill in June. Both of them grew up in Richmond, but had never been to this area. One of Allison's colleagues bought a house here, and she and Ben came over to see it.

"We really liked the neighborhood," Allison remarked. "All the houses had a lot of character, and it was so close to the city." They ended up buying a house on New Kent and say they have great neighbors and love living in Forest Hill.

Aside from therapy and cooking, Allison likes to travel and is into running. She and Ben just completed a ten mile race. She should be all set for the 5K in Forest Hill come Valentine's Day.

For more information about A Taste of Therapy, you may check out Alison's web page at www.atasteoftherapy.com or email her at info@atasteoftherapy.com.



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Good Shepherd Fall Festival Has Highest Turnout Ever

By Linda Dysart
FLYER Correspondent

Thank you Forest Hill Neighborhood Association (FHNA) for once again supporting the Good Shepherd School Annual Fall Festival! We had record turn out on a very beautiful day in October.

Live music was provided by Richard and John under the beautiful orange oak tree.

Games and crafts including pumpkin bowling, apple toss, make a button, face painting, find the turkey in the straw, knock the cans, corn hole, fishing for prizes, basketball toss, football toss, moon bounces and giant slide kept families busy with fun entertainment.

The day included a Bake Sale, Book Sale, Vendor Alley and Fall Raffle for 15 baskets.

Good Shepherd provided

hot dogs, cotton candy, pop corn and apple cider. Cross-roads Coffee and Ice Cream provided delicious fare and ice cream as well.

It was great to see the community come out and have fun with this neighborhood school community for a day of fall fun.

Visit our web site for more information: www.gses.org.

In Spite of Sweltering Heat, 43rd Street Festival a Success

By Robin Cage
Festival Organizer

The 43rd Street Festival lived up to its reputation for being a fun-filled day of great music, food, and art, in spite of yet another hot day!

Even though the crowds were down a little from previous years, the show raised \$13,500 for Freedom House. This was about the same

amount as last year and all the contributions and hard work were much appreciated.

Good Shepherd Episcopal School raised \$600 selling water and face painting.

Special thanks go out to John Sankey for setting up one of the best musical line-ups yet for the show.

Next year the date will be September 17th.



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Around the District

CineBistro Updates Moviegoing: McDonalds Moves Across Street

By Jerry Miller
FLYER Correspondent

Recent activity near Forest Hill brought a couple of noteworthy projects.

The CineBistro recently open at the Stony Point Fashion Park. This theatre is something totally different from any movie theatre in the Richmond market. It contains six viewing rooms (approximately eighty seats each) attached to a high-end restaurant. The concept is that one can go for dinner and a movie all in the same place. But not just any dinner, a dinner prepared by a renowned chef. Reservations are strongly encouraged but you can skip dinner and just watch the movie if you like.

The Stony Point Shopping Center (Huguenot at Forest

Hill) is currently under renovation. The facades will be updated to allow for larger, lighted signage on each store front. On a related matter, a BBQ restaurant will take the former Belle Cuisine spot (perhaps Benny's BBQ).

Along Forest Hill Avenue, the Hardees building has been demolished. In its place, the McDonalds (currently across the street) will build a larger unit on the former site. Dunkin Donuts is rumored to be interested in the old McDonalds location.

CVS is still interested in a possible move out of the Food Lion center into the Stratford Hills shopping center. However, no plans have officially been announced, nor is any tenant being displaced at this juncture.

Kathy Graziano, 4th District City Council

Wrapping Up a Successful Year



We are approaching the end of a great year in the Forest Hill community, with another successful year for the Farmer's Market, for the Music in the Park series and for completion of the work in Forest Hill Park at the lake.

By now the Scenic Byway signs for Riverside Drive should be in place. Thanks to Grace LeRose for her artistic commentary as the design was being discussed.

We have been successful in finding a new location for the South of the James Winter Market. It will be located, starting in December, in the 4700 block of Forest Hill Avenue, next to Blockbusters. It will run in that location until the SOTJ Market reopens in May. Thanks to SGGs, LLC, the owner of the property, which is allowing the market to operate without charge.

Also thanks to the Westover Hills Merchants Association for their fall clean up in the business corridor. The streets and sidewalks never looked cleaner. We also appreciate the support of the police department and the community service workers involved in the clean up.

By now, most or all of us will have received our semi-annual real estate tax bills, which will be due in January. If you pay through a mortgage, there will be no change in your process.

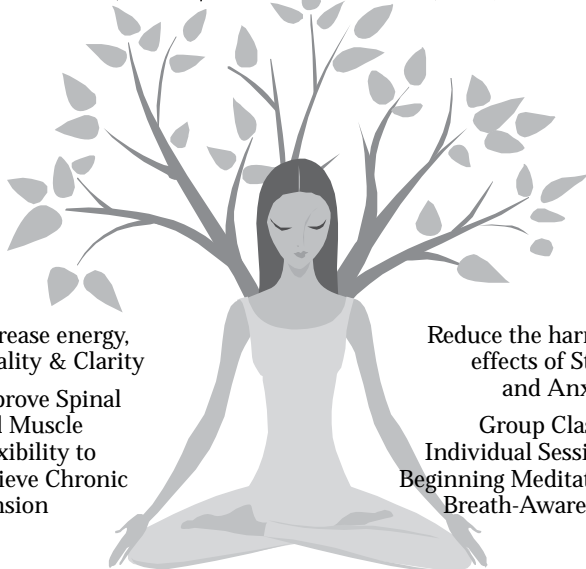
Stormwater utility bills have been received and paid by now. In the first year of the project, more than 150 drainage complaints were addressed, and several major projects are currently under way or in the planning stages. None of this would have been possible without the utility. Thanks also to Michelle Virts of Forest Hill for her intelligent and competent leadership of the program.

We are also working with the city administration to replace the guard rails on Riverside Drive from Cowardin, west to the ACL railroad bridge. There are currently seven different kinds of railing, none of which match, and none which contribute to the scenic nature of Riverside. So we are hoping for something that increases safety and contributes to the values of the communities of Woodland Heights, Forest Hill and Westover Hills.

The holidays are approaching, and I want to repeat the warnings about personal and property safety. Keep your car and house doors closed, keep your belongs out of sight in your car, and take your laptops, GPS devices, cells and music players into the house. Have a safe, happy and prosperous season.

I look forward to seeing you at the Forest Hill holiday event December 8th. It's always fun.

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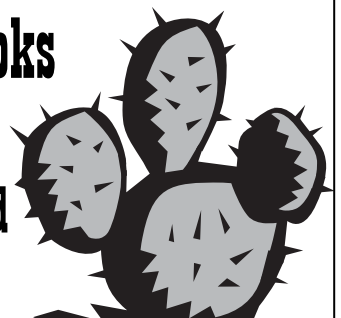
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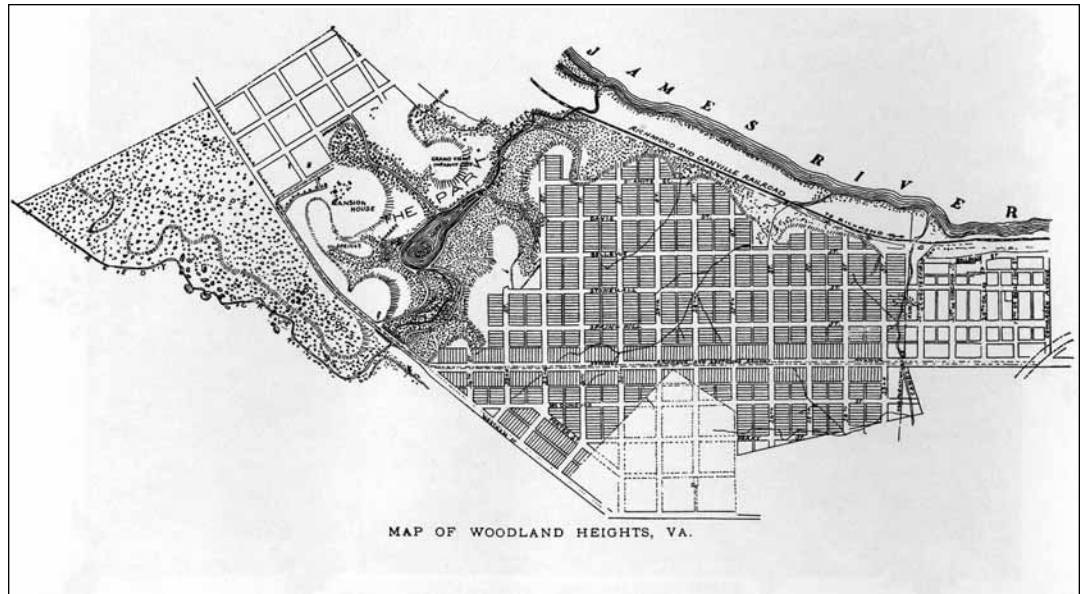
continued from Page 1
opment Company which initiated the streetcar and began to develop the area south of the James River.

The land bounded on the east and the south by Reedy Creek, on the north by Forest Hill Park, and on the west by Taylor Avenue and 44th Street was known as the Oak Grove Subdivision of Woodland Heights.

Forest Hill Avenue which had been called Westham Parkway or River Road for most of the 19th century was renamed Semmes Avenue on these early subdivision maps.

Robertson built his home circa 1888 across from the Rhodes' farm which became Forest Hill Park. After his death in 1921, his wife de-Graffenreid Taylor Robertson began the Brookside subdivision on the circular driveway to their house.

Robertson also was one of the founding members of Good Shepherd Church.



After moving to Baltimore and working in land and mining in the 1880s, he returned to Richmond to invest in railroads and real estate and one of the first long-distance tele-

phone companies.

He is one of several persons of significance in the history of Forest Hill who qualify the area as a historic district.

Because of the importance of some of the more recent research, the Historic Designation Committee will continue to fine-tune the Forest Hill Nomination. The next board meeting for approval will be in March. Hopefully, the Forest Hill committee and the DHR staff will satisfy each other's requests by then.



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