

The Forest Hill Neighborhood  
Association Newsletter

Summer 2013

**Forest Hill Neighborhood Association meetings  
are held every third Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the  
Forest Hill Presbyterian Church. See you there!**

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

Published by the Forest Hill  
Neighborhood Association

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# Forest Hill Flyer

## Crisis Stabilization Facility Proposed at 4405 Forest Hill Avenue

By Shannon D. Taylor

On March 20, 2013, the Forest Hill Civic Association held a meeting to learn about plans for 4405 Forest Hill Avenue. The two-story brick Colonial home, built in 1902, was purchased by the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) in July 2012 to be used as a crisis stabilization facility.

Why does RBHA want to open this facility? A few years ago, the U. S. Department of Justice investigated Virginia's handling of intellectually disabled individuals in facilities like Central State Hospital and Central State Training Center. As a result of DOJ's findings, Virginia agreed to implement the START program. START serves adults with intellectual disabilities and/or developmental disabilities, plus mental health conditions or challenging behaviors negatively affecting their quality of life. Participants include people who are at risk of losing their home or job because of behavioral concerns, have a history of complex medical, behavioral, and/or trauma related issues, have exhibited a significant deterioration in functioning over the past 24 months, have been hospitalized or admitted to a psychiatric hospital or training center, or have exhibited behavior that resulted in contact with law enforcement or jail.

The START program offers services ranging from training to a telephone hotline to crisis intervention. One component includes opening five crisis facilities throughout the state to offer short-term care for participants experiencing acute, chaotic crises who need temporary removal from their current living situations. RBHA is tasked with opening the crisis facility for the central Virginia region. It chose 4405 Forest Hill Avenue for this purpose. The facility will be staffed 24/7 and have clear emergency and back-up procedures in place. Guests will not have "unsupervised access to sharps, flammable materials, cleaning supplies or food to insure safety. Unless approved, they do not have

unsupervised community access." (*Report on Virginia START Program Overview, by Dr. Joan Beasley, PhD.*)

At the meeting on March 20, Dr. Jack Lanier, director of RBHA, and several RBHA employees presented information about the START Program and answered residents' questions. More than 200 residents from Forest Hill, Westover Hills, and Woodland Heights questioned the facility's safety, staffing numbers and qualifications, prerequisites for admission, security measures, impact on neighborhood crime and property values, and the wisdom of placing the facility in a densely populated residential neighborhood. Concerns about the close proximity to several public and private schools, daycare facilities, and a nursing home were raised. References to the infamous Southside Strangler who lived in a nearby halfway home two decades ago were mentioned as well. A few neighbors inquired about the quality of care guests will receive, as they had loved ones or friends who may qualify for the program. When asked why RBHA bought the home which did not meet city zoning requirements and why construction began without a permit, Dr. Lanier explained that RBHA relied on a consultant who assured them their intended use was legal. RBHA relied on their construction contractor to take care of the appropriate city permits.

After almost two hours of gathering information from RBHA representatives, the discussion then turned to the official position of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association. Many residents in attendance recognized the need to provide crisis services, but suggested alternative locations in less residential zoning districts were more appropriate. Both positives and negatives of the proposed facility were discussed, and an ensuing vote solidified the association's position by a large majority to **oppose** RBHA's plans to open a crisis stabilization facility at 4405 Forest Hill Avenue.

*Continued on Page 2*



*Renovation on the house at 4405 Forest Hill Avenue has halted as the RBHA applies for a special use permit.*

# Homegrown Civics



By Shannon D. Taylor

I fondly remember my fifth grade teacher, Mr. Pace. He wore a full beard and glasses and was the smartest man I knew at the time, besides my father. Every Monday we talked about current news and the people orchestrating major world events. My high school government teacher, Mr. Waters, later

encouraged us to volunteer with the Key Club and other community organizations. It seemed like extra work at the time, or just another way to boost my college applications. As a teenager, I failed to connect the dots between text book and backyard civics.

Now, as a mother, wife, and homeowner in this city I love, I fully grasp my teachers' lessons—civics begins at home. Being a good citizen can start in our own backyards, then spill into our streets, blocks and throughout our quaint little neighborhood.

But what does it mean to be a good citizen? It could be volunteering at a local food bank, or writing checks to your favorite charity. Sometimes a good citizen embraces a day of jury duty or looks in on a neighbor who might need extra help. Anyone can be a good citizen.

And there is also no age requirement for being a good citizen. In fact, the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association is offering our first college scholarship to a deserving high school senior who has contributed to and volunteered in the Forest Hill neighborhood. More details are available in this issue of the Forest Hill Flyer.

Communities are great only because of the contributions of their residents, which is why I love Forest Hill. I have met amazing people on every street. Everyone shows their love of the community with camaraderie and pride. So whether you wave to a neighbor on your way to work, offer to help someone spread mulch in his yard, or share a blanket with friends at Music in the Park, you are what makes Forest Hill so great.

If you really want to embrace all that our neighborhood is and can be, demonstrate good citizenship by participating in the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association. We thrive on diversity, new energy and the desire to make Forest Hill a continually amazing place.

Whether we wave at a stop sign, chat at the farmer's market, or share a laugh at my escape-artist dog, I look forward to catching up with all of the good citizens in our neighborhood!

*Shannon D. Taylor is the president of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association and only now, decades later, realizes that toilet papering someone's lawn is not being a good citizen.*

*Crisis Continued From Page 1*

RBHA has informed the neighborhood that it intends to apply for a "special use permit" from the city in order to open the facility, whose occupants will only stay between three and five days. People living in residentially-zoned districts need to stay a minimum of 30 days in a home in order for it to be considered a residential dwelling. Based on the association's vote, a letter on behalf of the association was sent to the city, Councilwoman Graziano, and RBHA. Whether you agree with the association's official position, your opinion matters and I encourage you to engage our elected officials about this and any issues impacting your life in the city. If you could not attend the meeting and are interested in learning more about the crisis facility, visit a few websites at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, the state agency responsible for implementing the START Program.

<http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/documents/ODS/ods-START-flyer-Families.pdf>  
<http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/Settlement.htm>

<http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/documents/ODS/ods-START-Report-201207-09.pdf>

<http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/documents/ODS/ods-START-Report-201207-09.pdf>

[http://www.centerforstartservices.com/Files/Virginia/VirginiaSTART\\_Program\\_2012.pdf](http://www.centerforstartservices.com/Files/Virginia/VirginiaSTART_Program_2012.pdf)

*Shannon Taylor is president of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association and can be reached at [foresthillsafety@hotmail.com](mailto:foresthillsafety@hotmail.com).*

## **Forest Hill Neighborhood Association 2013-2014**

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

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# Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Announces Community Service Scholarship

Are you a graduating high school senior who has put your mark on the neighborhood with your volunteer efforts? Perhaps you worked to clean up Reedy Creek, judged the annual Halloween Howl, or delivered the Forest Hill Flyer on your street. Maybe you volunteered at the Westover Hills Library, set up bluebird boxes, or helped your elderly neighbor by taking his supercan to the curb each week.

If you have been serving your community in those ways, or in any others, your efforts have made you eligible for the new Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Community Service Scholarship.

"We have so many wonderful students who contribute to our neighborhood!" says Shannon Taylor, president of FHNA. "A financial gift to further their education is a small token of our appreciation. I hope this opportunity inspires more volunteerism and community involvement by students of all ages!"

The annual scholarship is an award of \$500 presented to a graduating senior who lives in the Forest Hill neighborhood and who plans to attend college or a post-secondary institution. The selection process is based on an application; original answers to essay questions, including details and documentation of service to the community; a letter of recommendation from a non-relative who knows the applicant and is familiar with his or her service to the community; and a copy of a letter of acceptance from the college the applicant plans to attend. Once awarded, the scholarship may be used for any college-related necessities.

The scholarship deadline this year is July 1, 2013. All materials must be postmarked by that date. The money will be awarded to the scholarship recipient by the FHNA during the August 2013 membership meeting. The selection committee will be determined every year and will consist of between three and five members of the FHNA executive board. The decision of the selection committee is final.

If you are interested in the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Community Service Scholarship, the application can be printed from the FHNA website: [foresthillneighborhood.com](http://foresthillneighborhood.com). Details of all the requirements are on the application.

If you would like to receive a printed copy of the application in the mail, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: FHNA Community Service Scholarship Committee, 4206 Riverside Drive, Richmond, VA 23225. We will send an application back to you. For any other questions, contact [foresthillflyer@gmail.com](mailto:foresthillflyer@gmail.com).



Photos by Meg Mingione

## Run For The Hills

*Some folks ran all out, some folks moseyed—that's the nature of Run for the Hills, the Forest Hill 5K that took place on March 9, 2013. The annual event brought out more than 160 runners, walkers, and stollers on a lovely early spring morning to support the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association.*



# 43<sup>rd</sup> Street

## GALLERY

1412 W. 43RD ST. • RICHMOND, VA 23225 • 233-1758

**Come See What's New!**  
hot out of the kiln...  
new work by Robin



the gallery  
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# Celebrity Pet – Calaf the Prince

By Bo Williams

**What is your name and the name of your human?**

My name is Calaf. I am thirteen years old and I reside with Penny Anderson and John Butcher.

**Where and when did you find your home?** I was lost and alone in this big cruel world when I stumbled upon John and Penny. All I had to do was sit on Penny's lap while they were taking me to a friend's house to leave me. When I turned on the "purr" they were hooked.

**What's your heritage?** I am a black and white regal blend of love and aloofness.

**What is your favorite activity?** I love to pretend hunt in the yard all the creatures that get in my way. If I could only stand to get my claws dirty. Swatting at screws on the AC unit can keep me occupied for hours. And nothing beats turning around and walking the other way when I hear my name, especially when called by my neighbor David. Some people are only meant to be trifled with when my immediate court goes on vacation.

**What is your best trick?** Princes don't do tricks. People do them for me. I sit at my neighbor Bo's door and watch him cook and clean all the time. I am so glad someone has to do those things.



**What are your best traits?** I am adorable. Nothing much more needs to be said.

*Penny and John have lived in Forest Hill for almost 20 years. Penny is a master gardener, and John says she has never met a plant she didn't want to move at least twice. They are both my neighbors and Prince Calaf is the closest thing I have to a pet-- even if he only lets me pet him when they are on vacation.*

*Bo Williams creates design and layout for the Forest Hill Flyer. He is also a board member and resident of Forest Hill for more than 10 years. He owns and operates Total Printing Company, which prints the Forest Hill Flyer.*

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## Summer is Fun at the Westover Hills Library

This year's Summer Reading Program swings into action on Saturday, June 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At the kick off, families can participate in crafts, games and sidewalk chalk art. The library will provide hot dogs, chips, fruit snacks and drinks. Jonathan the Juggler will perform magic feats at noon.

So sign up for the Summer Reading Program sponsored by the Library of Virginia and open your world to the vast adventure of books. "Dig into Reading" is the theme for kids in kindergarten through fifth grade. "Groundbreaking Reads" will be the theme for young people in middle school, high school and adults. At the end of the program, participants who read the required number of books will receive free gifts such as books and cinch bags. In addition, there will be weekly drawings for prizes such as admission tickets to the Children's Museum of Richmond, the Science Museum or Richmond Squirrels games. The final program celebration at Westover Hills Library will be on Saturday, August 3.

During the summer from June 15 through August 4, Westover Hills Library also will have Monday Movies at 10:30 a.m. If your little one is too young to read on their own, the Westover Hills Library offers Baby Story Time on Thursdays, Toddler Story Time on Tuesdays, and Preschool Story Time on Thursdays.

Some other special events this summer include:

June 26, 2 p.m.—Make a friendship bracelet, one to keep and one to share. Ages six and older.

July 9, 2 p.m.—Marvel at the magic tricks of the "Amazing Mr. B."

July 16, 2 p.m.—Deborah Alsko, storyteller, presents stories for children. Stay to decorate a flower pot.

July 23, 2 p.m.—Brenda Luke, storyteller, presents stories for children.

July 25, 4:30 p.m.—Didgeridoo Down Under, an interactive, educational and fun musical and cultural experience for all ages.

You can get more details for any of these programs by visiting the Westover Hills Library or calling the library at 646-8833.

# Dr. Charles Williams Delights Gathering at Neighborhood Presentation

By Linda Mills

More than 50 people were treated to a rare and personal glimpse of the South Richmond that existed nearly 100 years ago. Dr. Charles Williams, a life-long South Richmond resident, regaled his audience with recollections about his home town. As the people who gathered at the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church viewed a screening of vintage photographs, Dr. Williams described each scene and commented with personal anecdotes.

One of his own photographs showed a flooded ball park on Mayo Island around 1937. For many, the fact that there had been a ballpark on Mayo Island at all was news. That image led him to discuss how he and his friends would stand in the river outside the park (when it wasn't flooded!) hoping to catch a baseball that was slammed "out of the park"—because "out of the park" meant into the James River! If the youngsters retrieved a ball, they could either take it home to play with or go to the ballpark gates and exchange the ball for free admission. Another story about the ballpark centered on a particularly intense football game. The enthusiastic spectators were stomping so hard on the wooden bleachers that part of the wood gave way and many football fans found themselves up to their waists in cold river water.

Kitty Snow, author of *From a Richmond Streetcar, Life Through the Lens of Harris Stilson*, based on her great-grandfather's photographs, sat with Dr. Williams during the presentation and facilitated his comments. He talked about his job on a dairy route in South Richmond where he delivered milk to his neighbors, about where he and his friends fished on the north side of the river near the long-gone Dunlop Mills and the Mayo Bridge, and about the floods that regularly devastated the Hull Street and Shockoe areas.

After the presentation, questions from the audience led to further information about the trolley, the amusement park in Forest Hill Park, and life in Richmond during the Depression.

The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association, which organized the presentation, would like to thank Dr. Williams and Ms. Snow for their time and a delightful evening. The FHNA hopes to welcome them back again for another fascinating look at our neighborhood.

*Linda Mills is intrigued with the history of Richmond and wishes more people would encourage our "senior" residents talk about times past.*



*Dr. Charles Williams, 97 years young, shared reminiscences of Richmond with an enthusiastic audience.*

*Dr. Williams says the fishing was good on the north side of the Mayo Bridge near the Dunlop Mills. At the time, the south side of the James River was Manchester. The current Mayo Bridge was built in 1913.*



*Dunlop Mills stood at the south end of Mayo Bridge in 1865. Milling took a dive in the city econ*





*The Mayo Island Ball Park often flooded during its existence. When it wasn't under water, it was the location of many thrilling ball games until its demise in 1949.*

*Mayo Island Ball Park*



VALENTINE MUSEUM

omy after the war, though these buildings stood until 1949.

## Reedy Creek Coalition VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



### Storm Drain Marking

Saturday, June 8th ~ 9am-12pm

For more details go to:

[www.reedycreekcoalition.org](http://www.reedycreekcoalition.org)



# Bluebird Trail Comes Alive in Forest Hill Park

by Laura Dysart and Linda Mills

In recent years, the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) population is on the increase. In the 1960s, the species was close to extinction. Many bluebird enthusiasts feel the population increase is the result of dedicated volunteers who build, mount and monitor bluebird nesting boxes. And our neighborhood is doing their part!

On March 9, 2013 interested bird lovers and members of Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior gathered for a training session presented by Christina Woodson, Coordinator of the Virginia Bluebird Society, [www.viriniabluebirds.org](http://www.viriniabluebirds.org). The training culminated with mounting seven new bluebird houses to create a bluebird house trail in Forest Hill Park. The hope is that bluebirds will nest in our park and their population in our area will increase.

The Eastern Bluebird is a small thrush with a big, rounded head, large eyes, plump body, and alert posture. Male Eastern Bluebirds are vivid, deep blue above and rusty or brick-red on the throat and breast. Females are grayish above with bluish wings and tail, and a subdued orange-brown breast. They eat mostly insects and berries, and have been known to make a show of spotting an insect on the ground, swooping down to get it, and returning to their perch. Without boxes, bluebirds would nest in natural tree cavities or abandoned woodpecker holes.

So far, the Forest Hill Park bluebird boxes have attracted two chickadee families, and both nests have hatchlings. Chickadees are also a native species that nests in cavities, so we welcome them. But the best news is that we have one bluebird nest! By the time the Forest Hill Flyer comes out, we hope that the three eggs have become three hatchlings!

Monitoring the boxes brings exciting changes each week. There is never a dull moment! If you see the boxes on your visits to Forest Hill Park, please don't disturb them. The houses are monitored weekly by the trained volunteers to ensure the best possible outcomes for bluebirds, and other native birds like the chickadee.

*Laura Dysart oversees the Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior. She has been monitoring the bluebird boxes and says of her experience, "This is the most fun ever!" For further information or to volunteer, contact Laura at [lauradysart@verizon.net](mailto:lauradysart@verizon.net).*



*Brandon Dysart, Mick Hastings and Sam Kemp, students at Good Shepherd Episcopal School and members of Friends of Forest Hill Park Junior, find a chickadee nest in one of the boxes they monitor.*

## Westover Hills United Methodist Church Offers Children's Summer Music Camp and Vacation Bible School

Sign up your budding musician for a multifaceted music camp at Westover Hills United Methodist Church, 1705 Westover Hills Boulevard. It is designed for children who are between seven years old and entering the sixth grade. The camp runs June 19-21 from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

The camp's goal is to help children express themselves through music. Each day the children will study music theory, music history, hand bell playing and technique, and singing. In addition, the children will learn to make musical instruments during craft time and enjoy a nutritious snack. On Sunday, June 23, the congregation will welcome the children so that they can display their talents at the 11 a.m. worship service.

Space is limited, so register early! Go to [www.westoverhillsumc.org](http://www.westoverhillsumc.org) for more information and to register.

The church is also offering a Vacation Bible School on July 22-26 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Children who are between three years old and those who are entering the sixth grade are welcome to attend.

The theme this year is an *Everywhere Fun Fair*. Each day the children will visit a global celebration with the look and feel of a world's fair. Children will make friends with neighbors around the world and discover that God's love can be found everywhere, including in their own neighborhoods. Children will be introduced to special places from all over the world and discover that we are all neighbors and all children of God. Call 804-232-1769 to register.



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# Mark Your Calendar for Art and Fun!

By Robin Cage

This year, the 43rd Street Festival of the Arts will be September 14, 2013.

We are moving forward as artists apply and sponsors join us in supporting the show. A new addition to the show this year will be artist awards for best in fine arts, best in crafts, and a judges' choice award.



*Photo by Geri Dibiase*

We also expect to have our unfailingly wonderful line up of great music, food, and art! It's going to be a great event!

As many of you may have heard, Freedom House was forced to close its doors last April. We are sad to see our 20-year collaboration with them end. They have been an integral part of our partnership between the arts and community involvement. While we regret the loss of that long-term partnership, the 43rd Street Festival of the Arts will be partnering with CARITAS this year. We welcome this fine organization and appreciate all the work they do with individuals and families in need of assistance.

We will keep you posted as things progress. Thanks to our Forest Hill neighbors for their continued support of the festival. As always, please feel free to contact me at the gallery with any concerns or suggestions.

*Robin Cage is the owner of the 43rd Street Gallery. Check out the gallery's Facebook page for up-to-date information and photos of new art at the gallery. You can find more information about CARITAS at [www.caritasshelter.org](http://www.caritasshelter.org).*

## Wine Club Resurfaces!

Interested in meeting new neighbors? Want to try different wines? Whether you're an expert or novice, join us for the resurrection of the Forest Hill Wine Club! Everyone in Forest Hill is welcome to attend—just bring a bottle of your favorite wine to share. Light munchies will be available, as will good company and conversation on June 21, 2013, 6 p.m., 4401 Stonewall Avenue. See you there!

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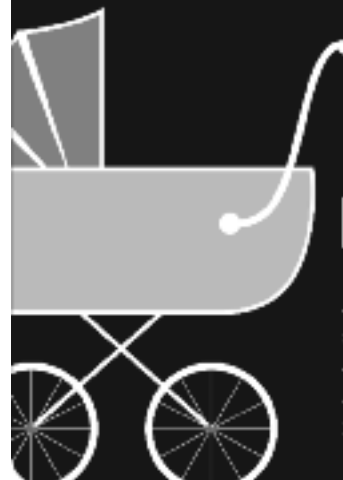
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# From Our Council Representative

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you all are well!

It looks like the cold weather is finally breaking and warmer temperatures are on their way. A couple reminders of goings on in the 4th District, South of the James Farmers Market started Saturday, May 4th and check out the new taZa coffee & cream at 5047 Forest Hill Avenue.

Storm Water Utility Rates – Beginning July 2013, fees will be moved to the monthly utility bills (spread across the year). Delinquent customers are urged to take advantage of the late fee waivers to avoid collection actions. Payment arrangements need to be set-up before July 1, 2013.

Budget – City Council and the Administration will be working on the Budget for the next couple of months. Consider attending a Budget Work Session scheduled every Monday afternoon at City Hall in City Council Chambers.

Recycling cans with wheels – are available from the City for \$65. They are a great way store and put out for pick-up, especially, residents with long driveways. I don't know what I would do without mine.

I invite you to call or stop by my district office at 6948 Forest Hill Avenue to share your ideas, concerns, and discuss issues. It's probably a good idea to call before you stop over. Your involvement with my office has and will continue to be vital to setting policy and providing services that improve our community and quality of life. I value your input.

*The Honorable Kathy Graziano is councilwoman for the Southwest 4th District in Richmond. You can reach her at [kathy.graziano@richmondgov.com](mailto:kathy.graziano@richmondgov.com) or 804-320-2454.*

## Traffic Calming Improvements on Dunston Avenue

The neighborhood can look forward to slower traffic on Dunston Avenue between Roanoke Street and West 41st Street, often used as a cut-through for people who want to avoid Forest Hill Avenue. The City of Richmond is planning to install "speed cushions" that will help control how fast a car can travel on the road. Neighbors on the street and those who regularly walk in the area know that many people do not obey the 25 mile-per-hour speed limit along that stretch.

For further information, contact the project manager at 804-646-6334.

**Jammin' On!**

**May 12th**  
6-8 pm  
**Mother's Day Square Dancing Blowout!!!**  
The Beer Ticks featuring Grant Hunnicut with special guests Gene & Gayla

**June 9th**  
6-8 pm  
**The Taters**  
Roots Rock, Pop, Country, Skiffle and Americana

**July 7th**  
6-8 pm  
**The Dhocmatics**  
Original Soul and R-n-B

**August 18th**  
6-8 pm  
**3rd Wave**  
Surf Music

**September 8th**  
5-7 pm  
**Trongone Band**  
Grateful Dead and Friends Sounds

**October 6th**  
5-7 pm  
**Exebelle and the Rusted Cavalcade**  
Folk, Country and Southern Rock

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Forest Hill Park

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## Order Your Plaque!

Look for the Forest Hill Historic District plaques as neighbors install them. They are visible from the street and add a touch of class and distinction to the homes they adorn. Show off our historic district by displaying a plaque on your house.

### FOREST HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT PLAQUE ORDER FORM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Invisible Mount is recommended for brick and stucco.)

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

## Volunteers Clean Reedy Creek

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay has been connecting the public to their local outdoor space through the *Project Clean Stream* program for 10 years. Each year, the program includes a unified day of service when volunteers all across the watershed spend a few hours cleaning trash from parks, rivers, and streams in their communities.

This year on Saturday, April 6, 2013, 45 volunteers cleaned the length of Reedy Creek in Forest Hill Park from Forest Hill Avenue to Riverside Drive. They removed 60 bags of trash and a tire in the process! Some volunteers even tackled the arduous chore of removing invasive species like English Ivy from near the South of the James Farmer's Market parking lot.

In total, more than 5,000 volunteers from all six states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed removed more than 300,000 pounds of trash during the unified clean-up.

If you are interested in coordinating and running your own cleanup site next year, please view the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay website:  
<http://cleanstream.allianceforthebay.org>.



*Volunteers collected more than 60 bags of trash from the Reedy Creek Watershed in Forest Hill Park. Thank you to all the folks who spent their time to make our neighborhood a cleaner place.*

*Photos by Amy Robins*



# Help Reedy Creek!

Reedy Creek Coalition and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay are seeking volunteers for their Storm Drain Marking event on Saturday, June 8. You may have already seen some of the blue markers on storm drains along Forest Hill Avenue. These were placed by volunteers last year.

Placing markers on storm drains helps raise awareness. We all need to know that what goes down the drain ends up in our waterways—Reedy Creek, the James River and finally the Chesapeake Bay. The goal of placing markers is to get people to think before they litter, use excess fertilizer, or dump oil, soap and chemicals—all of which washes down the storm drains and contributes to storm water pollution.

This year the storm drain marking will be focused on the upper watershed of Reedy Creek along German School Road and Midlothian Turnpike. For more details and to sign up please go to [www.reedycreekcoalition.org](http://www.reedycreekcoalition.org).



Photo by Amy Robins

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## Are You Breeding Mosquitos?

It is mosquito season again. To help curb the spread of mosquitos and disease, especially the West Nile Virus, homeowners are asked to take a look at their property and find the areas where water stands. Even a teaspoon of water can become an unwanted mosquito nursery. Check for containers that hold water such as old flower pots, upside down trash can lids, tires, children's toys, pet bowls and even lawn furniture. It's easy to spot potential breeding grounds after a rain—just walk through your yard to identify and find solutions for all the places holding water.

In addition to small sources of standing water, poorly maintained water features and swimming pools can allow mosquitos to overwhelm an area. Most mosquitoes stay within a mile or two of where they hatched.

The City of Richmond is helping battle mosquitos this summer with a campaign of targeted spraying of larvicide into storm drains. The larvicide they use is a safe biological agent that kills the larvae of mosquitos without harming any other animal life. If you see crews spraying down storm drains or in the gutters, they are protecting the city from mosquitos. The crews will be moving through the city neighborhood by neighborhood until October 31. If you would like to see a spraying crew in action, go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOyntAaSOxA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOyntAaSOxA).



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*-L. Hodgson*



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# Music in the Park Kickoff!



Photos by Ian Mills

Music in the Park started off the season with a huge success on May 12. The Beer Ticks, featuring Grant Hunnicut with special guests Gene and Gayla, not only played, but also taught the Mother's Day crowd to square dance. Their music inspired everyone to promenade and swing their partners for two hours straight!



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## **Celebrate Independence Day at Bethany Christian Church**

The Hills and Heights Community Churches are hosting an Independence Day Celebration at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 7 at Bethany Christian Church, 5400 Forest Hill Avenue. The event will feature picnic foods such as hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks and desserts. In addition, there will be games for the children, music, and other festive activities! Everyone is welcome! So don your red, white and blue, bring the family and enjoy the fun!



# Chickens Now Clucking Freely in Richmond Back Yards

By L. Kathryn Thornton

If you are inclined to experience the new trend in urban farming—chickens—now that the City of Richmond has made it legal to keep them, there are a few things you need to know. Once you have set up chickens and their housing in your yard, Richmond Animal Care and Control will be overseeing your chickens and how you care for them. That includes licensing, inspecting coops, and enforcing the cruelty provisions of City Code 10-92.

In order to own chickens, the first thing you need to do is get a permit. There is an application and a non-refundable fee of \$60 annually. To be granted a permit, you must own the property where the chickens will be kept, or have written permission of the property owner. You must also pass an inspection by Richmond Animal Care and Control to verify your chickens are being housed humanely. Anyone with former cruelty to animal or neglect charges on his or her record will not be issued a permit.

You may own a maximum of four hens. Roosters and English Gamecocks are not allowed. You must provide three square feet of space for each chicken, and your pen or coop must be in the rear of your property, more than 15 feet from any dwelling.

This may sound like a lot of rules and regulations, but they are for the safety of the neighborhood and the chickens. Many people feel these regulations are acceptable and that adhering to them is no problem considering the benefits of owning family chickens.

One Forest Hill neighbor who has applied for a permit from the city touts the benefits of keeping a small flock in the backyard.

“Every day I gather fresh eggs from my girls. The health benefits of that are enormous! And they each have a wonderful personality. They’re quite entertaining as they go about their chicken business. It’s wonderful knowing that my food comes from such a healthy, happy source,” she says.

Other benefits of owning chickens include adding droppings to your compost pile, reducing waste by using some table scraps to feed chickens, and reducing the insect population in your yard.

The neighbor continues, “We have enjoyed every day with our hens. They require attention, like cleaning out the coop, but that is nothing compared to the health and happiness of my family. We are trying to live a more organic, sustainable lifestyle, and the ladies contribute to that in many ways.”

A collateral regulation coming to light now that chickens are legal in Richmond is the law that prohibits dogs from being unrestrained. Dogs are not allowed to chase or harm “livestock,” which includes chickens. There are severe penalties for dogs that do this. But if both chicken owners and dog owners respect city laws, there should be no issues.

For more information or to obtain an application for a permit to own chickens, contact Richmond Animal Care and Control at

804-646-5573 or [AnimalCareControl@richmondgov.com](mailto:AnimalCareControl@richmondgov.com). You can view the application and an informational brochure at the website.

*L. Kathryn Thornton is a freelance writer who lives near Forest Hill Park. She would like to own chickens, but isn't sure if her dogs would accept the newcomers peacefully.*



*Your chickens may vary.*

## Join the Forest Hill Neighborhood Business Directory

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

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

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

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

Join Online  
Today!



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

# If You Plant It, They Will Come

By Grace LeRose and Laura Lemmon

The first butterfly of spring is always a treat and a reminder that butterflies have to eat, need a place to hide and to raise their young. Luckily, there are many native Virginia plants which can help us feed our winged neighbors. Here is a sampling of plants you'll see in neighboring gardens that are easy to grow, as well as attract butterflies and other creatures.

Purple coneflower, or Echinacea, is a two- to three-foot-tall plant with daisy-like flowers and a dark cone-shaped center. Butterflies and other insects feed on the nectar. If you leave the seedpods alone in the winter, goldfinches will work on the pods and eat the seed.

Another butterfly-friendly native plant is Asclepias, or Butterfly Weed. This plant with its bright orange flowers is sometimes seen growing in ditches along country roads. Butterfly weed is a food and host plant for butterflies and caterpillars. A relative of milkweed, in the fall you'll see pods with silky seeds.

Other native plants suitable for butterfly gardens include Bee Balm (Monarda), False Sunflower (Heliopsis), Blazing Star (Liatris), and Cardinal Flower (Lobelia). Many of these perennials have become pass-along plants, having been shared among neighbors and friends. Joe Pye Weed grows tall and is good at the back of the garden where it will attract hummingbirds and butterflies with its clusters of purple flowers. If you don't want



*Butterfly Weed Image © courtesy John Flannery & Flickr*



*Bee Balm image courtesy of White Flower Farm Catalog*

an eight-foot-tall plant, there are dwarf varieties of Joe Pye Weed that top out at four or five feet.

If you enjoy gardening and would like to meet with like-minded neighbors to swap plants and stories, consider the Forest Hill Gardeners Group. We meet the fourth Sunday of the month at a member's home to share snacks and plants, and to tour the garden. Our informal group consists of seasoned gardeners and beginners who live in Forest Hill as well as other nearby neighborhoods. We'd love to have you at our next meeting! For more information, email [fhgardeners@aol.com](mailto:fhgardeners@aol.com)

*Grace LeRose and Laura Lemmon are founding members of the Forest Hill Gardener's Group. People, as well as butterflies and birds, thoroughly enjoy their gardens. You can find more information about native plants at [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org) which lists native plants by region.*



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*Justin Nelson, President & Forest Hill resident for over 16 years*

# Membership Has Its Perks!

Mark your calendars for the first ever Forest Hill Fest! On October 5, 2013, the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association is throwing a party for its members. You can expect music, food, adult-friendly drinks, and fun activities. But it's just for FHNA members, so pay your dues today!

Other perks for members:

\*Only FHNA members have access to the Forest Hill Business Directory. Get the news of your business or talents out to the neighborhood! Or find a service or business that is owned locally, maybe even by someone you know!

\*When the June neighborhood yard sale rolls around, members do not have to pay a fee to benefit from the advertising done by the association. Free advertising, meeting neighbors and making money—can't beat it!

\*If you have a student in high school, your child may be eligible for a college scholarship only available to children of member households. The details for the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Community Service Scholarship can be found in this issue of the Forest Hill Flyer and on the website.

So join today! Paying online using Paypal has never been easier. It literally only takes a minute! Or you can use the mail-in coupon below. For more information on paying online or other news about the neighborhood or the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association, go to [www.foresthillneighborhood.com](http://www.foresthillneighborhood.com). You can also visit the website to sign up for periodic email news messages about upcoming events.

**Your Neighborhood Wants You!**  
**Please join the FHNA and become part of a friendly and active group that works for the good of the neighborhood.**

## Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Household Membership \$15    ☐ 2 Years \$25    ☐ Corporate Annual Membership \$30

☐ **Yes**, I want to join the Neighborhood Watch and receive e-mail updates about crime and safety in our neighborhood.

☐ **Yes**, please send me email updates on current neighborhood events.

☐ **No** emails please.

☐ **Yes**, I'm interested in volunteering with FHNA!

Pay online at [www.foresthillneighborhood.com](http://www.foresthillneighborhood.com)  
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