



Cooling Off at Sunday in the Park

A new and popular addition to Sunday in the Park attractions this year was a misting tent, which certainly helped tame the heat on an otherwise clear and beautiful day. See related article on Page 10. Photo: Brent Tennefoss

A Community Comes Together

By Jim Lovell
FLYER Correspondent

The Forest Hill community is known as a richly diverse, family oriented neighborhood. Many residents have lived here for over a decade, some families for several generations.

We take pride in our homes and value a safe, peaceful way of life. For many years, however, this lifestyle has been increasingly impacted by events at the Parkway Apartments located in the 1200 block of 47th Street.

Although ownership of the apartment building at 1207-1209 W. 47th Street has changed several times over the years, illicit activities have increased in severity, culminating in an all-night raid by the Richmond SWAT team and police department on July 2, 2008.

In addition to the illegal activities, the general condition of both the interior and exterior of the building have deteriorated. In early July several city and state agencies, including Community Assisted Public Safety, (CAPS), Richmond Behavioral Health Authority, and the Commonwealth's Attorney performed

continued on Page 7

Popular Farmers Market will Stay Open Until the End of November

The South of the James Market at Forest Hill Park has been extended through the end of November.

The market was originally to end for the season in October. But an agreement reached between the Market Manager and the Department

of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities will allow the market to remain open for an additional month.

The Market is also planning a special one-day holiday opening in December. The exact date and time will be announced later.

September 13

This Year 43rd Street Festival is 17 Years Old

For the seventeenth year the 43rd Street Festival will shut down a few blocks in our neighborhood and open a world of arts, entertainment and food to visitors from far and near.

The Festival runs from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday, September 13. This year's event showcases works by 65 selected regional artists and craftsmen and will also feature live music, festive food, and special activities for children.

This year's juried outdoor show will include paintings, prints, pottery, sculpture, jewelry, glasswork, and more. Festival organizer, Robin Cage says, "Come see what's new. You will be amazed and inspired by the beauty and craftsmanship exhibited by festival artisans."

Original works of art will be available for purchase and exhibitors will be on hand to answer questions about each piece.

The Bluz Catz, Susan Greenbaum and other local bands will provide musical entertainment.

The 43rd Street Festival is an annual event and fundraiser that benefits Freedom House, a non-profit group that provides shelter, meals and assistance for Richmond's homeless population.

For more information about Freedom House, contact Melba Harris @233-4064

Birds in the Park offer Good Lessons about Human Nature

by Grace LeRose, FHNA President

Forget kindergarten, I learned everything I need to know from watching birds. Robins are friendly and value family attachments. Blue jays are beautiful to look at but mean. Purple martins like to travel with friends and mesmerize us with their aerial formations. Woodpeckers are persistent and possess traits not unlike OCD. However, they all flee in terror from the newest residents of Forest Hill – the red-tail hawks in Forest Hill Park and surrounds. The hawks were on display at Sunday in the Park in July and since then spotted around the neighborhood. I could hear the unholy screeching of the two younger ones as they played in the Park, when I went to get the paper one recent Sunday morning. The hawks have a majestic, commanding appearance and remind us that nature can be both awesome and accessible at the same time.



September kicks off a busy month for the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association. We are hosting a joint meeting of four neighboring associations – Westover Hills, Woodland Heights and Southampton. The joint meeting will be a Mayoral Candidates Forum, held on September 17 at

7:00 pm at the Forest Hill Presbyterian church at W. 44th and Forest Hill Ave.

The forum will be an excellent opportunity for dialogue with each of the men who may be our next Mayor. There are many issues that face our City and our neighborhood – among them property taxes, schools, infrastructure and transportation. This is your chance to make your views known, or at least to hear what the next Mayor thinks.

Forest Hill's favorite event – the 43rd St. Art Festival – will be held Saturday, September 13, at the intersection of Springhill Ave and 43rd St. Lots of great painting, pottery, jewelry and more will be on hand as will food, music and fun. Proceeds go to a good cause – the Daily Planet. FHNA has been a staunch sponsor of this event for the past few years and we are proud to show off our great neighborhood.

The Sunday after the 43rd St. Festival will be another Music in the Park concert. The series was extended this year into September and October to take advantage of the pleasant weather and because the concerts have been so popular with the neighborhood. This one starts earlier – 5:00 pm instead of the summertime start of 6:00 pm.

In August, the FHNA voted to donate additional stages to the Parks Department for use during our concerts. We wanted to provide a bigger stage to the artists and to give back to the Park that we all use and treasure. So pack up the kiddies, dogs, picnic basket, and see you at the concert!

In October, we are collaborating with Good Shepherd School for their Fall Festival, scheduled for October 18 at the school. Look for games, activities for the kids, food by Seven Hills and Cielito Lindo, music and more fun for the family. Look for me at the cupcake walk! Like the birds, I will be busy this fall – but will always have time to look up and appreciate what I see.

Forest Hill Neighborhood Association

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Photo Brent Tennefoss

The Flyer Profile:

Celebrity Pooch

What's your name and age? Dolley. I am 5 years young.

Who's your human? My humans are Jamie, Winnie, Elise, Will and AC.

Where and when did you get adopted? I was born on a long-horn cattle farm near Montpelier, VA.

What's your heritage? I'm told that I'm a golden retriever.

What's your favorite toy? Whatever you have in your hand.

What's your best trick? Finding water to jump into, preferably in Reedy Creek or the James River.

What are your best traits? I like to lean against friendly humans, wagging my tail and waiting for a scratch behind the ears. I love meeting new and old friends.

What else do you have to say about yourself? I love taking my humans for walks around Forest Hills. I especially like the trails in the James River Park.



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Oct. 10	Gray Ghost (w/Amy Payette)
Oct. 17	Barboursville (w/Jason Tesaro)
Oct. 24	Rappahannock & Ingleside (w/Charlie Knight)
Oct. 31	Commonwealth Wines (w/Mike Woolard)
Nov. 7	Gabrielle Rausse (w/ Gabrielle Rausse)

beer

Look for Oktoberfest, Pumpkin and other seasonal beer to arrive in September!

October beer tastings will feature our seasonal Fall & Winter beers as well as Sierra Nevada, Belgian & Virginian beers.

food

We also carry Mill Street Sweets & Mobjack Bay Coffee.



National Night Out

These youngsters enjoyed some free ice cream at the local observance of National Night Out on August 5th, sponsored jointly by the Neighborhood Association and the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church. This marked the 25th anniversary of a nationwide event which aims to raise local awareness of crime and drug abuse issues. Photo: Brent Tennefoss

Play it Safe When Leaving Town

By Shannon Dion
FLYER Correspondent

When you are leaving your home for a vacation, a visit to relatives, or just to get away from town for awhile, you should take a few precautions to make it look like there is someone in your house. Obviously you'll lock the doors and turn off the iron, but have you done everything possible to make your home safe? Criminals are observant and will look for clues that you are not home. For example, a burglar will notice if your newspapers pile up in the yard or whether your mailbox is overflowing.

You may be in a hurry to escape, but it's worth it to spend a few extra moments protecting your home and peace of mind before you leave. Here's a sample checklist for you to consider:

1. Stop newspaper deliveries. It's so easy to stop your delivery; you can even donate your newspapers or extend your subscription period!
 2. Stop mail delivery. The postal service will hold your mail while you're away. Don't give criminals an extra opportunity to steal your mail, credit card applications, or tax return checks. The postal service will gladly hold your mail while you're away. Contact your local postal office and fill out a form, or visit <https://holdmail.usps.com/duns/HoldMail.jsp>.
 3. Notify the Richmond Police Department that you're on vacation. Patrol officers will drive by your home and make sure everything appears safe! You can fill out a form at <http://www.richmondgov.com/departments/police/HWBW.pdf> or call Third Precinct at 646-1412. Remember, we live in Sector 312.
 4. Plug in timers for lamps and radios. Timers are an inexpensive way to create the illusion that someone is home. Radios will liven up an otherwise silent house.
 5. Ask a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your house while you're gone. Even better, give them a key to collect mail, newspapers, and flyers. Ask them to switch interior lights on and off.
 6. Let the police and your neighbors know how to get in touch with you in case of an emergency.
- Even if you only leave for an extended weekend, think of the peace of mind you'll have knowing that your home is safer.

Private Security Scammers Falsely Claim Department of Justice Ties

By Shannon Dion
FLYER Correspondent

Has a salesman from a private security company recently knocked on your door?

From personal experience and from those of my neighbors, some of the salesmen have used very aggressive sales tactics.

In fact, one salesman for APX went so far as to tell me that he worked for the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). This was in fact a lie, as DCJS is the state agency that merely regulates and issues licenses for private security companies doing business in the Commonwealth.

Interestingly enough, I recently discovered that other state agencies (Maryland, Nevada, Georgia, and Louisiana) have received complaints about APX, a company based

out of Utah. If you have any concerns about these salespeople, please contact DCJS at (804) 786-4700.

For more information, please visit <http://www.faraonline.org/FARAInfoLinkAugust08.pdf> and <http://www.dcs.virginia.gov/pss/index.cfm>.

Join the Forest Hill Neighborhood Watch

Volunteer to be a Safety Coordinator for your block.

Increase your sense of security.

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For more information contact Shannon D. Taylor at foresthillsafety@hotmail.com or 231-1789.

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The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round...

Buses lumber up and down Forest Hill and Westover all day. With high fuel costs and environmental worries, have you every thought about riding one? Where do you pay? What's the schedule like? Where do they go?

Betsy Shires, a psychiatric nurse at VCU Medical Center rides the bus to and from work everyday. Betsy lives on West 46th Street and gets on the bus at the corner of 46th and Forest Hill Avenue.

"It takes about 20 or 30 minutes to get to work," she says. "That's about the same time it would take me to drive, park, and walk from the parking lot to the hospital. While riding the bus, I get to read, look out the window, and just relax."

When she doesn't have a discount, Betsy pays \$1.25, saving gas, wear and tear on her car, and the cost of parking. She said the drivers are very helpful and take pride in their work.

The buses are handicapped accessible and have lifts for wheelchairs.

They generally run on time but are slowed down as all traffic is with auto accidents, road construction, and bad weather.

Betsy also finds taking the

bus downtown for big events, like the Folk Festival, saves time in traffic, looking for a parking spot, and a general hassle. "If you rode the bus once, you'd find out what a great convenience it is."

Bill Luebke, who works at the Library of Virginia, has been riding the bus to work for 30 years. Living on Forest Hill Avenue, he merely has to walk out his front door to board. He took the bus to save the expense of a second car when he and his wife first moved here.

"At that time," he said, "the buses ran every 10 minutes, now they are about 20 minutes apart. I have three choices, buses 63, 70, and 71. They take different routes to Forest Hill Avenue before going downtown."

Bill said he reads, visits with other passengers, and particularly enjoys looking out over the James River when they cross the bridge.

"The only drawback," he says, "is crossing Forest Hill Avenue when I get home." He gets off at 43rd Street and Forest Hill. There is a crosswalk there, but it is marked for a school crossing for Good Shepherd. "It can take me as long as five minutes to get across the street," he



Betsy Shires is a regular patron of the bus service offered by the Greater Richmond Transit Authority. She likes the opportunity to relax on the daily trip to and from her job at the VCU Medical Center.

remarked.

Betsy avoids that problem sometimes by taking bus 63. It takes longer, but puts her off on the south side of Forest Hill Avenue.

All your answers about riding the bus can be found at www.ridegrtc.com. The website explains such things as

how to pay, what the schedules are, and the fares. You may also call customer service at 358-GRTC (4782) to find out the same information.

All local buses cost \$1.25 to ride, express buses are \$1.75 and if you are 65 or older you can ride for only 50 cents.

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Good Shepherd Festival is October 18

Fall Festival '08 is at Good Shepherd Episcopal School.

Please come out for family fun, music and food on Saturday, October 18th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Episcopal School on the corner of Forest Hill Avenue and 43rd Street.

Crafts, bake sale, used book sale, moon bounce, large slide, gladiator joust, boom blasters, pitch burst, dino digs, cup cake walks, milk can pitches, ring tosses, basket ball shoot, and carnival games for all ages!

Purchase lunch from Cielito Lindo, Seven Hills Catering and other local vendors.

Admission to this event is free and tickets for the activities can be purchased at the event.

Don't miss the return of this fun community tradition to benefit a local school in your community! When the Festival ends, walk over to nearby Forest Hill Park and enjoy the rest of the afternoon in the park.

Questions? Call 231-1452 for more information.

Volunteers Needed for Nov. 4 Election

The State Board of Elections is seeking poll workers in anticipation of record voter turnout for the November 4 Presidential Election.

A person must apply to become an officer of election and must be a qualified voter. Volunteers receive a stipend that differs from locality to locality.

For details on applying, visit the Virginia State Board of Elections Web site at www.sbe.virginia.gov or contact your local registrar.

Combined Associations Host Mayor Candidate Forum on September 17

Your Southside neighborhood associations (Forest Hill, Southampton, Westover Hills and Woodland Heights) are jointly sponsoring a Mayoral Candidate Forum on September 17, at 7 p.m. at the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church. This is your opportunity to see the candidates up close and to determine which candidate will best address the needs of Southside and Richmond.

We have learned that the position of Mayor, under Richmond's new structure, is one of

power and consequence. It is our civic duty to work to elect the best candidate in the field.

Fortunately, good candidates have come forward. It is our hope that the following five candidates will participate: Mr. Paul Goldman, Mr. Robert Grey, Delegate Clinton Jones, Councilman William Pantele and Mr. Lawrence

FORUM LOCATION:
Forest Hill
Presbyterian Church
TIME:
7:00 PM

Williams

If you have questions or suggestions regarding the forum, please contact Robley Jones at robleyj@aol.com or call 233-3748.

47TH STREET

continued from Page 1

an inspection of the building. The property owners were issued a list of required repairs. The requested repairs concern the safety and health of the tenants. The owner was given until August 30, 2008 to

have a plan in place to accomplish the repairs.

The good news is that there is strength in numbers and we are coming together as a community to face this situation. The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association (FHNA) has really gone to bat

for us. FHNA has made numerous, helpful calls to many agencies to support our efforts. Through organized meetings, email and other contacts, we are moving toward a collective and permanent resolution. FHNA continues to support the commu-

nity by facilitating the mediation with the property owner of Parkway Apartments.

On Tuesday, August 12, a meeting was held at the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church to allow homeowners an opportunity to address their concerns directly with the building's owner, and to begin to forge a path to a common solution. The tenants of the building also participated in the meeting and voiced their desire to live in decent housing free from criminal activity and to be welcomed by the neighborhood.

While the tension may have been thick we were able to conclude with a commitment from the owner to continue to remove problem tenants, make necessary repairs to the building, address the rodent and insect problem, the lack of landscaping, step up enforcement of leasing terms and be responsive to resident calls when problems arise.

While we realize we have not yet solved this issue, we are beginning to see that results can be realized and positive change can occur when we pull together and face these challenges as an organized and cohesive neighborhood.

I look forward to regaining a sense of trust in my community and knowing my neighbors better than before.



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Meet Your Neighbor

Forest Hill is Stomping Ground for Film Critic Neman

By Shannon D. Taylor
FLYER Correspondent

Our neighborhood is full of interesting people. Did you know that artists, pottery makers, gallery owners, public relations specialists, writers, editors, physical therapists, and rock stars, (to name a few) live among us here in Forest Hill? Join us as we profile some of the wonderful people who make our neighborhood an exciting place to live!

Who: Dan Neman

Occupation: Movie Critic, Richmond Times Dispatch

How long have you lived in Forest Hill?

Where else have you lived in Richmond? I have lived in Forest Hill for 12 years. Before that, I lived in the Fan for 10 years. (Before that, in reverse order, Texas, Chicago and Cincinnati)

What's your favorite Forest Hill activity?

I love walking through the neighborhood with my wife, Mary Anne, admiring the houses. And then making fun of the ones we don't like.



Where is your favorite place to eat?
Mamma 'Zu.

What is your favorite book? Favorite author? My favorite book is Catch-22. It sounds too pretentious to say it is Ulysses, which I do love. My favorite author is Jane Austen. And yes, I was an English major.

What did you want to be when you were a kid? That depends on the age of the kid. Up to age 5, or so, I wanted to be a fireman. Then I wanted to be an

astronaut. I still do, actually.

What is the best advice you've ever received? "Never draw to an inside straight."

What movie did you actually like that fellow critics (and even the viewing public) panned? There have been a lot of those. Most recently, I absolutely loved "The Assassination of Jesse James By the Coward Robert Ford," which I believe was panned by a majority of critics - although those who loved it, like me, loved it unreservedly. I'm just about the only person in the world who liked the George Clooney/Steven Soderbergh version of "Solaris." I still think "Ishtar" was pretty funny. And while I do not believe that "Gigli" was particularly good, I do not think it is as terrible as everyone says. I gave it two stars out of four, and I stand by that.

What actor would you pick to play you in a movie about your life? Well, Cary Grant is dead, so I guess I'll have to go with Robert Redford. The resemblance is just uncanny.

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I need your help on November 4:
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For more information call me at 233-3738, email me at bertberlin4schoolboard@yahoo.com
or see my website: bertberlin.com

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Volunteers Make Sunday in the Park a Success

Over 500 visitors came out for the Fourth Annual Sunday in the Park with Friends on July 20th at Forest Hill Park.

The event was sponsored by Richmond City Council Member Kathy Graziano and the Friends of Forest Hill Park, and enjoys the strong support of the Woodland Heights, Forest Hill and Westover Hill Neighborhood Associations and the Westover Hill Merchants Association.

This year, more than 25 volunteers from the community and from Crestwood Presbyterian Church provided the needed hands to keep the

event running smoothly.

Council Member Graziano handed out about 500 hot-dogs and Delegate Frank Hall donated 600 ice cream treats. There was also watermelon from WalMart and bottled water from Mrs. Graziano.

Three musical guests provided entertainment. Tammi Kamin from Westover Hills opened the afternoon, and was followed by Tinker's Dam, then Corie Kelley and Friends closed the afternoon's program.

Once again, everything at the event was free, thanks to corporate donations from Dominion Virginia Power, Verizon, Comcast, Ukrops, Wal-Mart and Food Lion.

The event also had strong participation from our public safety community, including Sheriff C. T. Woody, and from child-oriented, environmental

and literacy groups.

A final word of thanks has to go to the parks workers, who started setting up at 7:00 am, and came back at the end of the day to break down all the tents and restore the park to order.

Many, many thanks to Linwood Seward and his crew.



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Westover Hills Library News

By Laura Dysart

Wreaths Across America

Please consider purchasing a \$15.00 wreath at the Westover Hills Library to be placed on a Veteran's Grave in Richmond National Cemetery on December 13 at noon. There will be simultaneous wreath laying ceremonies at over 268 locations across the world. For every 20 wreaths sold at the Westover Hill Library, the library will receive \$100.00 from Wreaths Across America to benefit our local branch. For more information on Wreaths Across America, please visit wreathscrossamerica.org.

Check-It- Out

Stop by the library and pick up a schedule of events at the Westover Hills Library including Wednesday Night Movies, Children's Story Times and Computer Help for Seniors, or call 646-8833 and ask for information about these and other programs. To find out more about the Westover Hills Library Advisory Group, join us on the first Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the library!

FOREST HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD

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

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Patrick Henry Charter School On Track

By Susanna Klein
FLYER Correspondent

Things have been hectic since the Richmond Public School (RPS) Board voted to approve the application for Patrick Henry School of Arts and Sciences (PHSSA), a public charter elementary school planned in the Patrick Henry Building on Semmes Avenue. We have launched a new website, which has lots of information on the progress of the school and ways to get involved. Please visit www.Patrickhenrycharter.org for detailed information.

The school is striving to

meet its schedule to open July of next year. Attorneys for the PHSSA and the RPS Board are working to finalize a contract. We've incorporated PHSSA, filed for Federal grant money, filed our application to become a 501(c) 3 tax exempt organization, and completed dozens of other tasks necessary to get things going. We are currently accepting nominations for the Board of Directors. Now, we need help! Please visit the website to see how you can help in expertise, volunteer hours, or a financial contribution to offset contract expenses.



Saturday, October 18th

10:00am–2:00pm • Free Admission*

**(tickets will be sold for individual activities)*

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*Purchase Lunch from **Cielito Lindo**,
Seven Hills Market and other local vendors!*

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Questions? Call 231-1452 for more information.





Author's Night on October 6 at 7:00 pm at the Westover Hills Library

Welcome nationally acclaimed author, speaker, and freelance journalist, Stacy Hawkins Adams, at the Westover Hills Branch Library on October 6 at 7:00 pm. She has written many inspirational books including *Water Colored Pearls*, *Nothing but the Right Thing*, and most recently in April, her novella, *My Mother's Shadow*, was included in an anthology about mother daughter relationships called *This Far by Faith*. Books may be purchased and signed at this event.

Music in the Park

Enjoy the final two concerts of the 2008 series. Both run from 5-7pm on their respective performance dates:

September 14th: Hamburger James (Rock-a-Billy).

October 5th: Bluz Cats (Blues).

FHNA Donation Funds Library Renovation

The Westover Hills Library Advisory Group, the Westover Hills Library Staff and the larger community greatly appreciate the generous donation of over \$500.00 given to the Westover Hills Library for facility improvements by the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association last winter.

The donation was used to remove old outdated peg-board walls, paint the room

with fun, contemporary stripes, replace the molding and chair rail as well as add a new bulletin board to the library's community meeting room.

Volunteers provided all labor; the funds from Forest Hill Neighborhood Association covered the cost of all of the supplies.

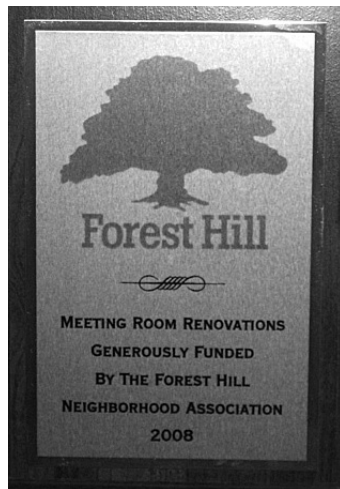
The room was in desperate need of updating and paint. Community groups, as well as children's story times and special children's events and author's nights use the meeting room frequently.

Most recently, Clay Dishon, Branch Manager has launched several Wednesday Night movie nights each month in

the meeting room. Plans are in the works to obtain a new projector and screen for this purpose.

The face-lift has made a tremendous difference to the appearance of the facility, and makes it a much more pleasant room to hold meetings and events. The compliments keep pouring in from the community.

The Westover Hills Library Advisory Group has purchased a plaque recognizing the FHNA's generous donation, which will be hung in the meeting room. We hope you will come by and see the renovated meeting room. Thank you for your support of the library.



Fourth District Meeting on Sept. 10 will Showcase School Board Candidates

The September Fourth District Meeting will be devoted this year to a forum for School Board candidates from the district.

Four candidates are running to replace George Braxton, who is not running for a third term. Bert Berlin and Jonathan Mallard are from the eastern end of the district, both residing in Westover Hills. John Lloyd lives on

Traylor Drive in Traylor Estates and Adria Graham Scott lives in the Wayland subdivision off Huguenot Road.

Our forum will provide an opportunity to hear from the candidates, to ask questions, and to share your ideas with them.

The meeting will be held at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 7757 Chippenham Parkway, at 7 pm on September 10.

Take Part in Your Community

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

Upcoming Meeting Dates

September 10 ♦ October 8 ♦ November 12

Get a Groovy Decal when you join.



ADD A LITTLE PIZAZZ TO YOUR CAR BUMPER.

Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

☐ Household Membership \$15*

☐ Corporate Membership \$30*

***Sign-Up Special:** Join now for 2008 and your membership will be extended until December 2009.

☐ Check here to receive FHNA bulletins by e-mail.

☐ Check here if you want to volunteer for Neighborhood Watch.

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

Forward to:
Roger Clark, FHNA Treasurer, 4216 Stonewall Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225

More information at: www.foresthillneighborhood.com