

The Forest Hill Neighborhood
Association Newsletter

Fall 2015

Forest Hill Flyer

**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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The 43rd Street Festival of the Arts Neighborhood Show Celebrates 24 Years of Music, Art, and Fun!

By Robin Cage

The 43rd Street Festival of the Arts is returning to the Forest Hill neighborhood for its 24th annual event on Saturday, September 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Seventy-five selected regional artists and craftsmen will show and sell their work. There will also be live music, local food, and special activities for children. Proceeds from the festival will benefit CARITAS, our local homeless provider.

Many of the artisans have been with the show since the beginning. Some of our locals like Angie Wiggins, Lee Hazelgrove, Steven Glass, Foust, and Kim Young are perennial favorites. New artists also come on board each year to provide variety and fine craftsmanship in many media. This year's juried outdoor show will include paintings, prints, pottery, sculpture, jewelry, glasswork, and more. Original works of art will be available for purchase and exhibitors will be on hand to discuss and sell their work. The show is fun for the whole family, with street chalk painting and face painting for the kids.

The musical line up this year includes some recent favorites, some new additions, and some local talent:

Rachel Leyco - 10- 11 a.m.
Blue Line Highway - 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Janet Martin - 1-2 p.m.
Bluz Catz - 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Elana Lisa and the Hot Mess - 4-5 p.m.

The unique selection of contemporary art, fantastic musicians, great food, and a loyal neighborhood crowd round out this event. We know from experience that our local friends buy lots of raffle tickets and take fine arts and crafts home with them. Many support CARITAS by buying t-shirts and donating as they come in. We are very appreciative of the Forest Hill neighborhood's good will in participating and supporting the festival.

So, come join the fun and see this year's selection!

Robin Cage is the owner of 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 caritasshelter.org.



*This year's festival t-shirt was designed by
Mehmet Altug.*

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Staying Connected



By Whit Clements

Let's get the obvious out of the way; usually the current FHNA President Shannon Taylor's smiling face and eloquent words fill this section of our quarterly newsletter, but not this issue. Shannon's family recently welcomed a new addition so she will be taking a little time off from her duties as FHNA president to focus on their little bundle of joy. During this time I have the privilege of getting to muse on what makes this neighborhood special. Congratulations Shannon – may your family's nights be peaceful!

There are more ways than ever for folks to form communities and stay connected with each other. Social networking sites like Facebook and Next-door, texting, Twitter, email, and Instagram allow us to pass information around faster than ever. This has been particularly helpful when getting word out about safety issues or lost pets. There is another part of being connected to a neighborhood, however, that is sometimes lacking on social media platformsreally getting to know the people who live there.

As a whole, the residents in the Forest Hill neighborhood are a friendly bunch of folks. A day doesn't go by that I am not able to say good morning to someone while out walking our dogs or chat with a neighbor while out with my family. It is that connection to each other in real life that is one of the greatest strengths of the neighborhood. That is the connection to this place that allows all the other quality experiences of living in Forest Hill to exist.

I like to think that the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association helps to facilitate and strengthen those connections through our monthly meetings and sponsored events. I encourage you to come out to our next meeting and make some new connections. We meet the third Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m., at the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church. Hope to see you there!

Whit Clements is vice president of the FHNA and is trying to figure out how not to be wrapped around his nine-month old daughter's finger.

Forest Hill Neighborhood Association 2015-2016

www.foresthillneighborhood.com

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A Message from Our Council Representative



Dear Forest Hill Neighbor,

I hope all is well! As I write this, summer is flying by hot and humid with a lot of rain. Unfortunately, this means the grass and vegetation is growing faster than the city can keep up with it. Please let us know about problem areas that you see in your neighborhood. Hopefully, you have noticed the clean-up of the Westover

Hills Shopping District. More than 30 volunteers from the area battled the heat and the weeds. It looks beautiful!

The South of the James Market has been going gangbusters even with the heat. The summer market runs through October, then the winter market picks up in November.

By now you should have received your rolling recycling carts. They're being provided to residents as part of grant for a first-of-its-kind private/public recycling agreement with The Recycling Partnership, (formerly Curbside Value Partnership). Richmond is one of only four cities in the Southeast to receive grant money. In addition to increasing the amount residents can recycle, the program will enable the city to provide alley collection in neighborhoods where trash is picked up in alleys. Until now, all recycling collections have been curbside. I thank the Recycling

Partnership, along with local partners, Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA) and TFC Recycling as well as the program's funding partners, Coca-Cola and MeadWestvaco.

Ready for the latest update on the Forest Hill Avenue gas main installation and paving? DPU has finished the connections! Hopefully, they should be able to pave Forest Hill Avenue from Westover Hills Boulevard west to Powhite Parkway soon. We are checking with DPW for the paving schedule. I know we all can't wait for that!

The 2015 UCI Road World Championships (September 19-27) is almost here. More than 1,000 cyclists from more than 70 countries will participate in the nine-day event which is expected to attract hundreds of thousands of onsite spectators, as well as a worldwide TV audience in the millions. For more information, including volunteer opportunities, please go to richmond2015.com.

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. Follow me on Twitter([@kathygraziano](https://twitter.com/kathygraziano)).

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

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New Recycling Carts Promote Green Living and Save Money

The City of Richmond has delivered approximately 57,000 new 95-gallon recycling carts to city residences. This program is possible through a \$560,000 grant received by the City of Richmond. Some of that money has gone to purchase the recycling carts, each equipped with a radio frequency identification device, some will go toward expanded community outreach and education, and some will go to the alley collection program. There are no extra fees for homeowners, and the City of Richmond will not incur any extra costs. In fact, the city will save more than \$760,000 by diverting waste into recycling.

Small recycling bins will no longer be in use. The city will not empty the small bins any longer. If you purchased a 95-gallon cart before this, you will not be able to receive a refund. You may keep both carts, but if you would like, you can return the old cart and just keep the newer blue-lidded one. For more information, go to richmondgov.com/RichmondRecycles/index.aspx.

The whole idea is to make recycling easier for city residents. All you need to do is leave your recycling bin at the location where your trash is collected. It will be collected on the same

day as your trash, every two weeks based on your current recycling schedule. You do not need to roll your cart to the curb unless that is where your trash is usually collected. In addition, because of the identification devices attached to your bin, you can earn recycling perks points. For example, you can print a coupon for \$5 off a \$50 purchase at Ellwood Thompson, or \$5 off a purchase at Crittertown Bath House depending on your earned points. It's easy to sign up. Just go to recyclingperks.com for more information.



The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association meets the third Tuesday of each month, except for July. All meetings begin at 7 p.m. at the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, 4401 Forest Hill Avenue.

Ian Mills Earns 2015 Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Community Service Scholarship

It's common knowledge that students in middle school and high school are required to log as many as 30+ hours of community service every year. Forest Hill has always been lucky to have student neighbors who perform their service close to home. Ian Mills is one of those kids.

"I have lived in Forest Hill all my life," Ian says. "There is a sense of community here that I love, and that I've seen few other neighborhoods achieve."

This love of his community inspired him to become a member of Friends of Forest Hill Park, Junior, when the group was first getting off the ground some years ago. Judging the costumed pooches at one of the first Halloween Howl contests is a favorite memory. He also has participated in other events in the park. For several years he helped staff a booth at Sunday in the Park for the James River Association to help educate people about how important it is to keep the Reedy Creek Watershed free of pollutants that flow into the James River, then the Chesapeake Bay.

In addition to his work in Forest Hill Park, he has helped deliver the Forest Hill Flyer to doorsteps, and has served as the unofficial photographer for the Forest Hill Flyer for several years. His photos of Music in the Park and the 5K fun run are some of his favorites.

"Going to neighborhood events as a photographer is a lot of fun. You get a whole different feel for the crowd and the activities when you're looking through a lens and talking to your subjects," he says.

Ian graduated this year with an Advanced Studies Diploma from Open High, an alternative RPS high school in Oregon Hill. It was established in 1972 with the intention of helping students become independent, self-determined thinkers and learners. Open High is small, so he's accustomed to a compact building and a close-knit student population of less than 200. That "family" feel is about to change. This fall Ian begins his college education at the sprawling Virginia Commonwealth University, enrollment more than 31,000. Ian will be studying English and Psychology, with a goal of becoming a professional writer.

"I chose VCU because it's close to home, but diverse, and has an excellent English program."

Although he will be at college for much of his time in the future, he doesn't plan to cut ties with the neighborhood.

"I know I can come back to Forest Hill, walk my dogs and see people I know on just about every corner. That is a tremendously comforting thought."

The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Community Service Scholarship is an annual 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. Once awarded, the scholarship may be used for any college-related necessities.



Photo by Kendall J. Mills.

GSES Fall Festival



The annual Good Shepherd Episcopal School Fall Festival will be held on

Saturday, October 17, 2015 from noon to 4 p.m. GSES is located at the corner of Forest Hill Avenue and W. 43rd Street. Come join us for carnival games, live music, yummy food, the fabulous moon bounce, a giant slide, face painting and more! Admission to the festival is free. Tickets for the games and inflatables can be purchased at the festival. We will enjoy the festivities regardless of the weather, and everyone is welcome!

2016 Admissions Programs begin October 15th.

Preschool

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Exciting News on the Bluebird Trail

By Laura Dysart

It has been a sensational year in Forest Hill Park on the Bluebird Trail! Vivienne Bruzzese and I have been alternating monitoring the trail. We make sure the nesting boxes are in good shape, and we use techniques to prevent ants, wasps and other predators that harm our native birds! The Friends of Forest Hill Park Youth Group has been active in monitoring the trail along with Vivienne and me. Trail monitors record data each week about the activity in the boxes including the number of nests, eggs, and birds fledged. These bird boxes are reserved for native bird species, so we quickly remove the nests of non-native species like sparrows in these particular boxes. We ask that only trained monitors touch the boxes.

The results of this season are almost all in. Three of the boxes had multiple bluebird nests resulting in 24 bluebirds fledging into the park! One of the boxes has a third nest with four eggs, so we can hope to have four more bluebird fledglings before the season ends. We also had a chickadee nest fledge seven chickadees into the park. (Chickadees are a native bird, so their nests remain in the boxes.) The number of birds fledged through the program in Forest Hill Park this season is greatly adding to the local bluebird population, which has been down in Virginia overall.



The Friends of Forest Hill Park Youth group includes (from left to right) Cobi, Luke, Jon, Jake, Andrew, Sam, Liam, Maya, Reagan and Julia. Some of the regular group was not there and we had some new kids also. It's nice to see so many interested kids. They all participate when they can!

Thanks to all of our volunteers! And thanks also to Crossroads Coffee and Ice Cream for housing the bluebird trail monitoring kit for the trail volunteers. It really makes a difference!

If you are interested in this project please contact me at lauradysart@verizon.net. You can also find out more information on the Bluebird Trail project throughout Virginia at virginiabluebirds.org.

Westover Hills United Methodist Church Mothers of Preschoolers A Caring Community for Mothers and Their Children

Are you a mother of small ones who are up to five years old? Are you looking for a caring, supportive community right in your own backyard? As a mother of little ones, do you unwind by enjoying a cup of coffee or tea? Would you like to talk with other moms to share experiences? Are you an expecting or brand new mother who is feeling excited, exhausted, sad, elated, isolated, joyful, thankful, overwhelmed or all of the above? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then the Westover Hills United Methodist Church (WHUMC) Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is the place for you!

So what is WHUMC MOPS? Established in 2011, our MOPS group is a caring community that offers friendship, fellowship, and support to mothers of preschoolers and new mothers. At WHUMC MOPS, you come just as you are to build friendships, be encouraged, and gain practical parenting strategies while your small ones are cared for in our MOPPETS program onsite. No matter your age, ethnicity, background, lifestyle, or beliefs, we invite every mother of a preschooler to join our group!

So what happens at MOPS? You may help yourself to a cup of coffee or tea and a tasty snack when you arrive, because we know how hectic it can be to get out of the house in the

morning. At WHUMC MOPS, you may hear an interesting speaker who will encourage you with an inspirational or educational talk that relates to your life as a mom. You will also be able to participate in discussion groups addressing topics applicable to your life. And at some meetings we engage in a creative activity or try a new skill—just for fun!

MOPS is a special time to focus on you, but peace of mind is important, too. Infants and children experiencing separation anxiety may be kept with you. Whenever possible, however, we ask that older babies and children be checked in with our loving MOPPETS staff. Care is provided just a few rooms away from our meetings, so the MOPPETS staff can easily let you know if you're needed.

The best way to get started is to come! Our first meeting of this year takes place on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 between 10 and 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall at WHUMC. We meet regularly on the first and third Tuesday of each month September through May. Please visit the WHUMC MOPS website for additional details and registration information whumc-mops.org. If you have any questions, please contact us at 804-232-1769 or whumc.mops@gmail.com.



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Celebrity Pet

Mabel and Rupert

By Rupert

Hello Neighbors, my name is Rupert Waugh-Uecker (aka Mr. Boo or The Boo) and this is my canine housemate, Mabel. Today I would like to share the story of how we came to share our home.

We both live on Reedy Avenue with our humans, Jan Uecker and Maggie Waugh. I came to live with Maggie and Jan in the spring of 2008 after they adopted me from the Richmond SPCA as a kitten. My siblings and I were owner surrenders, brought to the SPCA from the comfortable home in which we were born. I was known as Sparkie at that time and I was left with my sister, Sparkle, and a brother named Peter O'Toole. My sister and I shared the cool bronze spotted coat, long sleek bodies and gooseberry green eyes that identify our heritage as being half Egyptian Mau. Peter, the odd one, was an equally handsome and distinguished tuxedo cat.

Jan saw me sleeping in the lobby on my own in one of the crates. He walked over to me, and reached in a finger to say hello. I immediately popped my head up and chirped a greeting in return. It was at that moment we all decided that we were meant to be a family.

I have a tremendous personality, even for a feline. I am very vocal and love to chat. Every day I am on the front step singing a greeting to my humans as they return from wherever it is they go in their cars. These days I am more of an outdoor cat and I have a very tight schedule to keep visiting with my favorite neighbors. There's Ray, who graciously allows me to snooze in his boat; and Sam who lets me play with his toy trucks; as well as the members of Owl Orchard Community Garden. There are others too – in fact there are times my humans are convinced that I have more than one family. I just love catting around my territory, hunting for shrews and other small rodents.

Mabel, or Lady Mabel Foxtrot (aka Maybeast Monsterbelle) the dog came to this house, out of nowhere I might add, in November of 2013. She was also adopted from the Richmond

Rupert



SPCA, but she was no puppy. She came to our family a mature lady of four years of age, with a past and terrible manners. Her pedigree is as mysterious as her background, though her rap sheet described her as a Chow-Spitz mix. She is 35 pounds of muscle and black fluffy fur.

She and I have yet to work out an amicable rapport, as she still thinks that all of the food is hers and constantly feels the need to bark and chase me if she sees me around the house or garden. Every morning, after inhaling her own breakfast, she runs over to the little cat door leading to the basement and shoves her big head through to growl and snuffle a greeting.

Her favorite activities include going for long hikes on the many trails along the James River and swimming. She has taken over the back yard, patrolling for intruders and merrily barking over the fence at our dog neighbors, Shep and Jetta.

She is friendly with other dogs, but the neighbors who walk by would never know it as she ferociously barks as soon as one is in sight. The truth of the matter is that she wasn't given a proper introduction to canine society as a young lady. Jan and Maggie have devoted much time to taking her to Barker Field for more positive interactions in the hopes that walks through the neighborhood become less of an embarrassment. I can tell you that her bark is far worse than her bite.

Rupert's humans Jan and Maggie joined the Forest Hill community in April of 2013 as first-time home owners. They were immediately enchanted by the wonderful energy of the tree-lined streets, the friendly residents, and the proximity to the James River and all of the surrounding parks.



Mabel

Little Free Library

The Little Free Library at the Forest Hill Park tot lot has been well loved and well used. We continue to accept children's books for the library. You can either place children's books in the library, or contact lauradysart@verizon.net. We continue to renew the books on a regular basis.



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UCI is in Richmond!

The Road World Championships (Worlds) is cycling's pinnacle event, held annually in an international city as chosen by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) through a competitive bidding process similar to the Olympic Games.

This year Richmond will play host to cyclists and sporting enthusiasts from all over the globe September 19-27 as the 2015 Road World Championships mark the return of cycling's main event to the United States for the first time in nearly 30 years.

Worlds is a nine-day event, featuring 12 championship races for Elite Men and Women, Under 23 Men, and Junior Men and Women. It is a rare opportunity for the athletes to compete for their country. Athletes compete in three different disciplines including the traditional Road Race, the Individual Time Trial and the recently introduced Team Time Trial. World Champions are crowned in each discipline.

As exciting as this competition is sure to be, it may be a little challenging to traverse the city with an estimated 450,000 visitors milling around. The following websites may help you in your quest for information.

Richmond2015.com

This is the main website for the race. It offers information on the course, schedules, facts about the race, press releases, and a way to subscribe to their newsletter.

navigate.richmond2015.com

This site helps you get around the city, as well as offers information on parking, transportation, entertainment, events, and more.

*Nathan and
Taylor Amey are
ready to roll
with the pros!*



richmond2015.vcu.edu

VCU is in the middle of the excitement. On this site you will find information about academic schedules, residence halls, telecommuting, and parking.

navigate.vcuhealth.org

This website is to help you plan your visit to VCU Medical Center during the UCI Road World Championships.

ridegrtc.com/planning-your-trip/uci-worlds

As a result of bike race routes, GRTC bus routes are being diverted, but will continue to operate throughout the race dates. Exact day-by-day detours for each route will be posted to this website.

vabike2015.virginia.gov

This site is the Virginia state employee's source for information about the UCI Road World Championships and how it may affect their work day.

FHNA Membership Chooses Roadside Sign

By Carolyn Paulette

For more than a year, the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Sign Committee has mulled over various designs and materials for a Forest Hill roadside sign to announce to visitors that they are in Forest Hill. The committee agreed on two different designs, then decided to let the membership make the final choice. At the April and May meetings of the FHNA, the committee displayed sample signs that were the actual size they would be when installed. The membership could then discuss the signs and vote at the June 16, 2015 meeting.

At the June 16 membership meeting of the FHNA, more than 35 members came out to discuss the pros and cons of the two signs. A strong majority chose the sign shown here, which emphasizes the historic district. The majority of comments by the membership agreed that the historic plaque design at the top of the sign echoed the historic plaques displayed on houses in the neighborhood, and that it was important to let people know that Forest Hill is recognized on the national register of historic places as a historic district. The boundaries for the historic district are established by law.

The Forest Hill Sign Committee wishes to thank everyone for their help with this decision. The city's Urban Design Committee will review the signs in the fall, and the FHNA hopes to install them by December 2015.

Carolyn Paulette is a member of the FHNA Sign Committee and was instrumental in securing the Forest Hill Historic District designation for our neighborhood.



Order Your Plaque Today!

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.



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(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 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 November 1, 2015. Get your order in today!**

November Elections for Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Officers

It's election time again—here in the neighborhood! The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association by-laws establish one-year terms for all officers of the association, and two-year terms for board members. So in addition to the offices of president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary, three out of seven board seats will be also be open this year. Nominations should be submitted to Whit Clements, clements.whit@gmail.com, by November 1, and voting will take place at the November 17, 2015 meeting of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association. Please keep in mind that you must be a resident of the Forest Hill community and your membership dues must be current to be eligible to run for office or vote.

Nominate a neighbor, or nominate yourself. Serving on the association's board is rewarding and a great way to meet others in the Forest Hill community. Plus, it's a wonderful opportunity to be part of what makes this such a great place to live!

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Know Your Neighbor

Foust... Artist, Author, Dog Lover

By Judith Warrington

Like her single name, local artist Foust likes brevity, and it shows in her art, her writing, and her humor. Many people know her from her booth at the primo spot on the corner at the 43rd Street Festival of the Arts and her charming linoleum prints. Inspiration for her art comes from her three rescue dogs, trees, the familiarity of favorite cups, and the simple geometry of utility poles. She was one of the festival's original artists and will be there again this year.

Foust is now a published author with a new book of short stories entitled "Sins of Omission" and a collection of cartoons, "Six of One, Half-dozen of the Other," based on her Facebook page of the same name. Both are published by Tidal Press. Here's what she had to say about art, writing, and her neighborhood.

September's here. How long have you been doing the 43rd Street Festival of the Arts? And how long have you lived in the Forest Hill neighborhood?

I've done the show since its first year, which was the same year we joined the neighborhood. Twenty-four years ago. Hard to believe the whole thing took place inside the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church parking lot back then. I've also done the art for the t-shirt three times.

My husband Melvyn (Crawford) and I have lived in our house on New Kent Avenue in Forest Hill for 24 years (yikes!). I moved a lot as a kid, so it's been a treat to be in one place for a change. I'm not a Richmond native—I think you have to be born here to qualify—but I did go to Midlothian High School, the original one, not the new one.

What about your use of a single name?

The name thing came about because I don't like either my first or middle names. I have never liked nicknames and both those names are ripe for nicknaming. I've been known as just Foust since high school. The thing about saving time is a joke I came up with because so many people ask why I use just one name.

You are an artist and a writer. Which came first?

Probably art, because I used to send drawings as letters to my grandparents before I could write. I always liked writing and I got a lot of encouragement from my high school creative writing teacher (Ms. Hildebrand—wish I knew where she was, so I could thank her.) I went to William & Mary intending to major in English, but it wasn't a good fit for me, especially after I decided I wanted to get a degree in studio art. After my sophomore year, I transferred to Philadelphia College of Art (it's now known as the University of the Arts) and got my BFA in Illustration. The MFA in fiction (from Spalding University) came many years later. I was taking writing classes at VMFA for fun, and my husband and my mother encouraged me to go back to school for fiction. I believe my husband said, "If you're going to take classes anyway, why don't you just get the degree."

Do you ever wonder how many of your prints grace the walls of homes in Forest Hill? How did you choose that medium?

The linocuts started from an assignment I did at PCA. I had done block prints in elementary school and hated them. But this time something clicked. I love the naturally rough quality they have, and I like having the challenge of working in a reductive method—the pieces I cut out are what make the white areas. Every so often, I try other media. But I always find myself thinking, "This would make a great block print." I don't do much pure drawing, just rough sketches to set up a composition on the linoleum. Making the cartoons has kind of

reminded me how much fun it can be to draw.

I have to say I have not yet lost my fascination with the urban geometry of power lines. I think my inspiration comes from wanting to see something that's in my head translated into a linocut. I do have a few recurring themes that I know people like—dogs, wine, coffee cups, trees. I also like to work on things that aren't usually popular subjects for images, like my series of images of women's bathrooms, and my series based on phobias.

How did your new book of short stories come about? And where are your books available?

I've been so lucky. My publisher Tidal Press found me. Whenever I have a story selected for an online 'zine, I post the link on my Facebook page. Laura Jones, who runs Tidal Press, knew me as an artist and read the posted stories and approached me about doing a collection. In the process of working on editing the stories for "Sins of Omission," she came up with the idea of releasing a cartoon collection at the same time. I'd been posting a daily cartoon on a separate Facebook page called "Six of One, Half-dozen of the Other" for more than a year, so we just picked a compilation from what I'd posted. That was an easy book—all the hard work was already done! Both books are available locally at Chop Suey Books and at our neighborhood shop of wonders also known as 43rd Street Gallery. You can also order them directly from my publisher Tidal Press (tidalpress.com) or Amazon.

Do you feel that Forest Hill enhances your artistic spirit?

I think our neighborhood fosters creativity because it's so eclectic. So many different types of architecture, so many different kinds of people. There's no pressure to make your house or your yard look a particular way. I think that's the kind of place that naturally attracts artists and creative people in general. Plus, you can be downtown or down by the river in five minutes, so you have the best of both worlds right outside your door.

Any other thoughts you'd like to share with your neighbors?

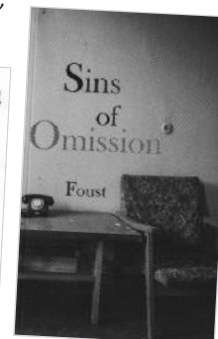
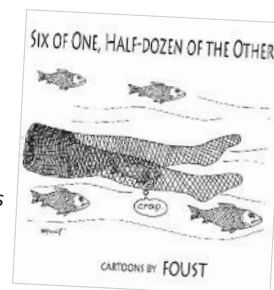
Well, thanks for being my neighbors, for one thing. We love Forest Hill and the people here are a big part of what makes it a great place. Southside rules!

Foust will be at the 43rd Street Festival of the Arts on September 12, and Arts Around the Lake at the University of Richmond on October 4. Her art is also available at 43rd Street Gallery and Nest on Semmes Avenue. For her cartoons, be sure to check out Foust's Facebook page, "Six of One, Half-dozen of the Other." Her website is foustfoustfoust.com

Judith Warrington is a long-time resident of the Forest Hill neighborhood who welcomes the 43rd Street Festival of the Arts to her front yard each September!



Photo by Jay Paul.



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At the Westover Hills Library

Mark Your Calendar for These Events!

Haunted Halloween Movie

Friday, October 30, 3:30 p.m.

Get in the mood for Halloween with a special viewing of "E. T., the Extra-Terrestrial." Children should be accompanied by an adult.

Aromatherapy Soap Making

Saturday, November 7, 2-4 p.m.

Learn the art of soap-making! Call to reserve your space beginning October 24. Ages 12-adult.

Polar Express Party

Wednesday, December 2, 6 p.m.

Join us for a very special viewing of "The Polar Express." Get your magic ticket, enjoy some holiday refreshments, and leave with a special remembrance of your visit. Pajamas welcome! All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Chess Club

Learn, practice, compete! All ages welcome. The club meets on Mondays, 6-7:30 p.m.

Tournaments are held Saturdays, September 19, October 17, November 21, and December 19 from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

No Homework Zone!

Take a break before you start your homework, or finish it first, and come to the library for a fun craft experience. Designed for ages 11 -16. 4-5:30 p.m.

September 11—Make seed balls

October 9—Make a "mad monster"

November 13—Turn your phone into a pinhole camera

December 11—Make paper beads and photo frames for holiday gifts.

LEGO Club

What could you build if you just had the right LEGOS Come build with ours and see! All ages welcome. Tuesdays, September 15, October 20, November 17, and December 15 from 4-5:30 p.m.

Fiction Focus

September 18 and October 16, 10:15-Noon

Join our seniors' book club! We meet the third Friday of each month, February through October to read books and discuss them. Fiction Focus is sponsored by the Richmond Public Library and the City of Richmond Office on Aging and Disabilities. We're always looking for a fresh opinion, so join us!

Book Babies

Interactive story, music, and play time for babies up to 18 months and their parents/caregivers.

Thursdays, September 3; October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29; November 19; December 3, 10 and 17 at 10 a.m.

Toddler Story Time

Early literacy story time features books, music, and rhymes for 18-36 month-olds and their parents/caregivers.

Tuesdays, September 1, 8, and 29; October 6, 13, 20 and 27; November 17 and 24; December 1, 8 and 15 at 11 a.m.

Family Story Time

Early literacy story time with music, books and rhymes for children accompanied by an adult.

Thursdays, September 3; October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29; November 19; December 3, 10 and 17 at 11 a.m.

Westover Hills Library Advisory Group

Interested in supporting your library? We want your input! Join us to help make a difference at Westover Hills Library. We meet the first Saturday of each month September through June at 9 a.m. Join us on September 12*, October 3, November 7 and December 5.

*The September 12 meeting will be at Forest Hill Park

Are you interested in Training on Demand?

The Westover Hills Library staff offers 30-minute training sessions to help you learn more about computers, eReaders, and even applying for jobs online. All appointments are held on Tuesdays between 2 and 4 p.m. (except for November 24 and December 12). Call 804-646-8833 to make an appointment or for more information.

English as a Second Language (ESOL)

Designed for speakers of other languages who wish to speak, read, and write English in an American cultural context. Contact the Adult and Continuing Education office at 804-780-8311 for information on registration and class fees. Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m.-1p.m. beginning October 5. (No classes October 12, November 11, or December 28 and 30.)

All Richmond Public Libraries will be closed on October 12; November 11, 26 and 27; and December 24 and 25.

Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts Celebrates Six Years

By Bryan Figura

After 85 years of educating the city's children, Patrick Henry School shuttered its doors in 2006 because the building was not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. Aspiring to breathe life back into our historic Southside school, a group of local families designed a public charter school, earned the approval of the City of Richmond's School Board, secured funding to make the building ADA compliant, and opened Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts (PHSSA) in 2010 in the partially-renovated Patrick Henry School building. We are a public charter school that receives funding from Richmond Public Schools (RPS). We operate, however, more independently than other city schools because our charter—an agreement with the RPS School Board—outlines an innovative educational design.

The mission of PHSSA is to cultivate students' maximum growth and develop stewardship through a premier environmental and arts education. To maximize the learning, growth, and development of our scholars, we employ an integrated curriculum wherein environmental science and art are the starting points for study of all disciplines. For instance, when our children study Reedy Creek, which flows behind our school, they measure and graph the changes in water temperature (math and science), write a short story about the wildlife they observe while visiting the creek (English), and construct pinhole cameras to take photographs of the creek (arts). Our holistic, interdisciplinary approach to teaching reflects the way our children best learn as opposed to teaching subjects independently.

A gate in our schoolyard opens into Forest Hill Park, offering unique grounds for our students to study environmental science. Additionally, every grade at PHSSA tends their own outdoor garden, and teachers weave that collective experience into classroom learning. Cafeteria meals are homemade, using the vegetables and fruits our students grow.

PHSSA employs a year-round calendar to reduce extended interruptions in student learning. Intersessions occur at the end of each quarter, during which students participate in targeted instruction and enrichment opportunities like cooking classes and yoga.

Bryan Figura is a member of the PHSSA Board of Directors, fundraising chair, and a long-time educator.

If you are interested in enrolling your child at PHSSA, please attend an Open House in the school's auditorium at 6 p.m. on either November 12, 2015 or January 22, 2016.

A priority of the PHSSA community is to ensure a clean, safe, comfortable, and renovated building for our next century. To that end, we recently restored or replaced its 235 windows to create an energy-efficient building that retains its historic integrity. Per our charter, we do not receive public funding for capital improvements and thus need to raise \$250,000 in private donations to support the window work. To date, we have raised \$70,000. Please help us give renewed life to a beloved historic school building in our Southside neighborhood and support the mission of our distinctive school. If you are interested in donating, please visit the PHSSA website at patrickhenrycharter.org or contact Bryan Figura at bryan.figura@patrickhenrycharter.org. Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



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What's My House Worth?

By Alexis Thompson

If you decided to go big, risk it all, and borrow \$300,000 to invest in the stock market, I imagine that you would watch those stocks. Every. Single. Day. Amazingly, when home buyers invest that much into property, very few watch the real estate market or track the value of their investment until they're ready to sell. This creates a vulnerable consumer group looking for a quick answer to the question, "What is my house worth?" and online platforms have become more than happy to answer that question.

Home values, unfortunately, are not as easy to interpret as stocks—trusting an algorithm to interpret hardwood vs. carpet, granite vs. laminate, or one neighborhood from the next is a risky way to make home-buying decisions.

Let's start with the infamous "Zestimate." The term comes from Zillow, an online real estate database that offers property estimates (Zestimates) all across the country. The accuracy of this calculation varies significantly from region to region. In very dense, metropolitan areas with a plethora of sales (which are simply data points as far as Zillow is concerned), the accuracy increases. Here in the River City, however, Zillow doesn't have what it needs to be accurate. In fact, on Zillow's own website, it rates its accuracy in Richmond with one star. According to their rating scale, it says that they cannot determine accuracy in this region and Zestimates are predominately based on local assessment data.

Then what are assessments? They are simply tools local governments use to assign taxable value to real property—in our case, the City of Richmond sets assessments and that's what we pay taxes on. Keep in mind these values are based on historical data and can lag behind current market conditions. In addition to the delay in value adjustments, assessors may not be aware of home improvements that add value to your property such as granite countertops or a new roof. Clearly, Zillow's reliance on assessments can lead to inaccurate Zestimates and confused homeowners.

What is a home owner to do? Not many people know that you can get an access link to the Central Virginia Multiple Listing Service (MLS), a listing of available homes in your area, from your Realtor® and watch real-time market action. It's just as easy as the online platforms such as Zillow, but better! The sales are updated in real time, prices are accurate and you can flip through photos to get an understanding of the features and quality of your neighborhood sales. As you approach your own sales horizon, a Realtor® who is familiar with your neighborhood can help you interpret how the data translates to your property's value. I'm always happy to set up these access links for neighbors, so feel free to call or email. Let's take care of your biggest investment long before it's time to cash in!

Alexis Thompson is a licensed Realtor® at One South Realty Group. She and her husband spend their time raising babies, chasing their rescue mutt, Henry, and telling everyone that they live in the best neighborhood in Richmond. Contact Alexis at RichmondVAProperty.com.

Data Coverage and Zestimate Accuracy Table							
Choose a location type below to change data:							
Virginia Counties							
	Zestimate Accuracy	Homes on Zillow	Homes With Zestimates	Within 5% of Sale Price	Within 10% of Sale Price	Within 20% of Sale Price	Median Error
Franklin	★	27.9K	24.1K	--	--	--	--
Highland		1.5K	1.0K	--	--	--	--
New Kent	★	8.0K	7.7K	--	--	--	--
Nottoway	★	4.3K	3.9K	--	--	--	--
Powhatan	★	11.1K	10.7K	--	--	--	--
Richmond	★	1.8K	1.5K	--	--	--	--
Stafford	★★★★	44.8K	44.3K	51.7%	75.4%	92.4%	4.9%
Tazewell	★	10.8K	10.4K	--	--	--	--
Albemarle	★	37.1K	35.8K	--	--	--	--
Alleghany	★	7.7K	7.1K	--	--	--	--

Love Your Park, Earn Your Hours

Are you a middle school or high school student who loves Forest Hill Park? Would you enjoy earning community service hours by participating in fun park events? Do you appreciate the wildlife in our park?

We would love to recruit you to the Friends of Forest Hill Park Youth Group.

The FFHP Youth Group helps with park clean ups, Bluebird Trail monitoring and several events held in Forest Hill Park. Some of the most enjoyable activities are working at the children's activity table during Sunday in the Park with Friends each April, planning and running the Halloween Howl Dog Parade the Sunday before Halloween, and providing children's activities for Victorian Christmas with Santa at the Stone House. We have a great group of volunteers, and would love to have you!

Please contact Laura Dysart at lauradysart@verizon.net if you are interested in receiving emails about volunteer opportunities for youth in the park.

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Address: _____

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☐ **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!

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For more information visit www.foresthillneighborhood.com

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Elana Lisa and the Hot Mess

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43rd Street Festival of the Arts

Art Doors!

Have you seen the 40 uniquely decorated doors scattered throughout the city? Have you seen the one in Forest Hill Park? These doors are part of Find Art Doors, the brainchild of Andrea Butler, who raises funds for Virginia Supportive Housing. VSH's mission is to end homelessness by providing permanent supportive housing and supportive services. The doors, each one representing one person's victory over life on the streets, have been used to raise funds and awareness. This example in the park was designed and created by students at a camp created by Richmond Autism Integration Network. For a map of all 40 doors and more information, go to findartdoorsrva.org.



Music in the Park Continues in September and October

Load up your picnic basket and grab your chairs! Join your friends and neighbors in Forest Hill Park at the two remaining Music in the Park events for the 2015 season! Cool weather, hot music! (Please note, these last two events begin earlier, at 5 p.m.)

September 6, 5-7 p.m. Elana Lisa and the Hot Mess—Hot Jazz and Swing
October 4, 5-7 p.m. New Misty Centrals—Folk, Pop, and Rock

Music in the Park is sponsored Grow RVA, Grid, the Frontier Project, Forest Hill, Westover Hills, and Woodland Heights Neighborhood Associations, Richmond's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, and Kathy Graziano.

Date	Time	Act
May 10	6-8 pm	The Atkinsons (Alt-Country/Americana)
June 14	6-8 pm	Tin Can Fish Band (Folk Rock & Roots)
July 12	6-8 pm	Hotel X (African Jazz Funk)
August 9	6-8 pm	Mighty Joshua & Zion #5 Band (Reggae)
September 6	5-7 pm	Elana Lisa and the Hot Mess (Hot Jazz and Swing)
October 4	5-7 pm	New Misty Centrals (Folk-Pop & Rock)

Sponsored by Grow RVA, Grid, the Frontier Project, Forest Hill, Westover Hills and Woodland Heights Neighborhood Associations, the City of Richmond Parks and Recreation and Kathy Graziano.



www.foresthillneighborhood.com