

The Forest Hill Neighborhood
Association Newsletter

Spring 2018

Forest Hill Neighborhood Association meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month 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

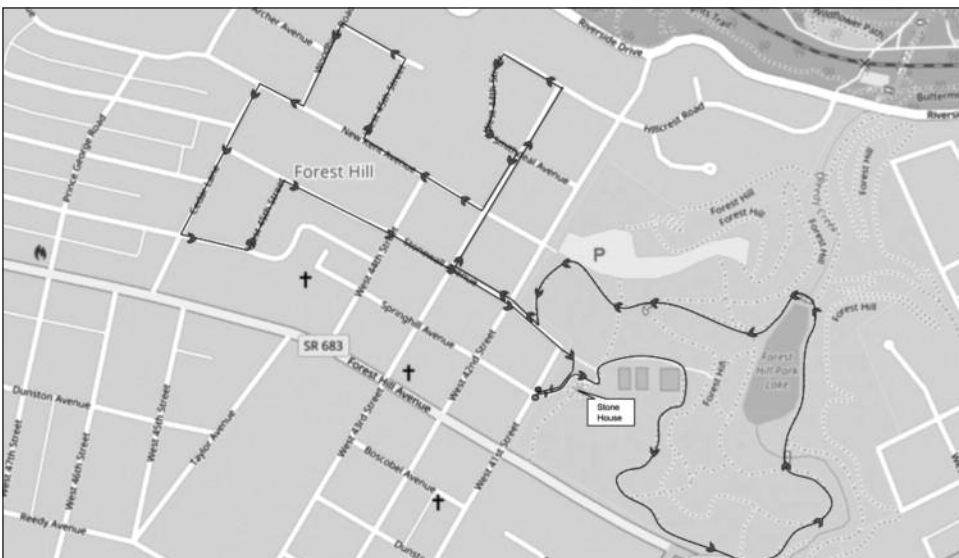
Register Now for the 2018 Forest Hill 5K!

Registration is open for the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association's 2018 Forest Hill Run for the Hills 5K. The fun run (not timed) will take place on Sunday, March 18 beginning at 9 a.m. Proceeds will support neighborhood projects.

This is our tenth annual 5K and it is a fabulous day throughout the neighborhood. The race begins and ends at the Stone House in Forest Hill Park and travels through the park and the surrounding neighborhood.

Registration for the race is \$25. The entry fee includes a race tee shirt if you sign up online by midnight on March 11. You can register in person on Saturday, March 17 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Stone House, or on Sunday from 8-8:45 a.m. The cost is \$28 for in-person registration. Prizes will be awarded for the fastest adult woman and man, the fastest male and female youngster, and the fastest doggy of any age or gender.

Don't miss this great opportunity to be a part of a fun run (or walk or stroll.) We enthusiastically welcome volunteers to help with jobs such as finish line assistant, trail monitor, and cheering



voice. Volunteers will be rewarded with a 5K tee shirt and good karma. Please contact foresthillassoc@gmail.com for more information.

Go to the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association website, foresthillneighborhood.com, and click the Events link to register, and for details and payment information.

2018 Forest Hill Neighborhood Association 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 annual Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Community Service Scholarship.

"This neighborhood has a long history of residents who are committed to scholarship and volunteering," says FHNA President Whit

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The President's Message



By Whit Clements

The spring thaw is coming and soon the neighborhood will be green and blooming again. Our neighbors and friends, like all the other animals, will be emerging out of their winter respite. Soon we will be walking the trails of the parks, biking, and running all along the streets, or headed out to the great restaurants that have really blossomed in the past two years. Take advantage of the spring and

participate in the 10th annual Forest Hill 5K! At ten years we decided to change things up and do the 5K on Sunday, March 18. For more details on the fun run check out the article in this newsletter or on the FHNA website.

The neighborhood association hasn't hibernated. People will notice some positive changes that have happened. Over this winter, the city cleaned out the forebays in the Forest Hill Park lake. After years of the FHNA advocating for this to happen and the work of Councilperson Larson, the trash island should not return. The city has also been working with Grow RVA and the FHNA to look at improvements to the South of the James Farmers Market to benefit both the market and neighbors. The neighborhood association continues to advocate for us, the residents.

The 5K, the yard sale, and Music in the Park will be back this year. In addition to those favorites, there are some new things in the works that I hope you will like. These events and the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association exist with the support and efforts of our members. Come out and see what it is all about. The association meets the third Tuesday of each month, at 7 p.m. at the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church. I'm looking forward to seeing you all out and about.

Whit is ready to get back out hiking along the river.

Tell us about your Celebrity Pets!

Or let them speak for themselves. At the Forest Hill Flyer, we love hearing about the neighborhood's nonhuman residents. Spotlight your furry, scaly, or feathered friends by contacting foresthillflyer@gmail.com.



Forest Hill Neighborhood Association 2018-2019

foresthillneighborhood.com

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Clements. "Those two traits help to make this such a wonderful place to live. The goal of the scholarship is to reward and encourage these traits in the young people of the neighborhood. Allowing them to spread the enjoyment of education and helping others to different areas of the world or wherever their educational adventures may lead them."

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 is July 1 each year. All materials must be postmarked by that date. The money will be awarded to the scholarship recipient by the FHNA during the August 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 at foresthillneighborhood.com. 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, P.O. Box 13201, 1021 Hioaks Road, Richmond, VA 23225**. We will send an application back to you. For any other questions, contact foresthillflyer@gmail.com.

Get Your SWAG On!

Visit ForestHillNeighborhood.com

to see all the great swag we have to support the neighborhood.

We have wine and pint glasses, dog leashes, flags, t-shirts, bags and more!

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A Message from Our Council Representative



By Kristen Larson

I am happy to report that the long-awaited Forest Hill Lake dredging project is now complete. Crews worked through December and January to clean out the forebays that were installed during the lake reconstruction project a decade ago. I will continue to work with the

Department of Public Utilities and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities to make sure that our lake is clean and well maintained.

Speaking of the park, I had the honor of joining my colleague, Councilman Parker Agelasto, to officially recognize the Friends of Forest Hill Park for their work in and dedication to Forest Hill Park at the February 12 City Council meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of this group who have served our park. Please join the group on the fourth Saturday of each month for invasive species removal. For more information and to join their email newsletter go to

friendsofforesthillpark.org.

I am continuing to work with city administration, GrowRVA, and the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association to find ways to improve the South of the James Market. We know that traffic and parking has increased greatly over the last few years, so we are discussing solutions to address these issues. We all love this neighborhood gathering and we are working together to make sure it meets the needs of all parties, including the neighbors.

As winter turns to spring, my office is gearing up for budget season! This is a season of hard work, long meetings, and probably a few late nights. But I am excited to work collaboratively with my colleagues and the mayor to set course for the next year that continues to move our city forward. If you would like to share your thoughts on the city budget or any other priorities, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at kristen.larson@richmondgov.com or give me a call at 804-646-5646.

I always enjoy visiting with the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association each month. I hope to see you at a meeting soon. Also, please mark your calendars for my next quarterly 4th District Meeting on March 22 at Huguenot Community Center at 6 p.m.

The Honorable Kristen Larson represents our neighborhood, the Southwest 4th District in Richmond.

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From our School Board Representative



By Jonathan Young

I cannot support the meals tax increase when my colleagues have remained silent on cutting Richmond Public Schools' (RPS) downtown expenditures, failed to consolidate largely-vacant school buildings, or to use one cent of our own money to fund facilities.

Together along with using some of the millions in the RPS surplus, we can fix the problem and fund facilities absent a tax increase.

But is it surprising that my colleagues' failure to make hard decisions prompted the mayor to step in with a revenue proposal, even if it's one that I cannot support? The good news is that we still have an opportunity to get this right and reduce RPS's downtown expenditures, prioritize what matters most, and revisit a facilities plan that, candidly, was dead on arrival the moment it passed, largely because of the absence of consolidation. My \$7 million a year plan to fund facilities constitutes an alternative approach to what has been proposed.

For an alternative approach to financing school construction, go to [linkedin.com/in/jonyoung2/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jonyoung2/) for my plan to match dollar to dollar up to \$7 million a year from the City of Richmond to fund new facilities/renovation. This proposal would provide \$14 million a year, that along with RPS capital monies in the bank, sale of consolidated school buildings, and partnering with a non-profit for new construction (together the equivalent of \$1 million a year in financing) RPS would have enough money to fund \$250 million in new construction.

How does RPS come up with \$7 million a year? 1) \$2,324,102 decrease in expenditures by reducing downtown expenses including cutting and consolidating positions, curtailing travel, and eliminating School Board district funds; 2) \$300,000 decrease in expenditures by reforming and rethinking how Aspire Academy operates; 3) \$2,000,000 in fund balance dollars towards new facilities construction; 4) \$2,000,000 decrease in expenditures by consolidating four schools; and 5) \$376,000 decrease in expenditures by reduced personnel costs relevant to item 1 above.

Jonathan Young represents the 4th District on the School Board for the City of Richmond. You can reach him at 804-929-7006 or jyoung7@rvaschools.net.

Mark Your Calendar for Two Election Dates in 2018

By Robley Jones

Two elections are now scheduled in 2018. It is a federal election year, and we will be electing our district representative to the United States House of Representatives, and one of Virginia's senators to the United States Senate. The United States House of Representatives incumbent in Virginia's Fourth District, which includes all of Richmond, is Representative Donald McEachin (D). It is Senator Tim Kaine's (D) seat which is up this year.

Should either incumbent face opposition from within the Democratic Party, there may be a Democratic primary. Should multiple Republican candidates seek the election of their party for either United State House of Representatives (CD-4) or United States Senate, there may be a Republican primary. It is very likely that there will be a Republican Senate primary because Corey Stewart, E. W. Jackson, Nick Freitas, Ivan Raiklin, and Ron Wallace have indicated that they intend to run. Other candidates may come forward.

In the event that both parties hold primaries, voters must choose to vote in one of the primaries, either Democratic or Republican. You cannot vote in both. There are no write-in votes in primaries. Virginia voters do not register by party, and primaries are open to all registered voters.

It appears most likely that we will have only a Republican primary in June. Regardless, **mark your calendars for June 12.** On November 6, we will elect a U.S. Senator and Virginia's Fourth Congressional District Representative. **Mark your calendar for November 6.**

Robley Jones is vice president of the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association. If you are willing to serve as an election officer, a position is open at precinct 402. Please contact Robley Jones at robleyj@aol.com for information.



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New Bulk and Brush Collection Rules for Residents

The City of Richmond has enhanced its Bulk and Brush Collection program to provide a more effective and efficient service to residents. Previously, bulk and brush items were collected upon request. The program modifications will provide BI-WEEKLY collection and will mirror the recycling collection schedule.

- In accordance with City Code Section 11-103, bulk items must be placed out on your trash collection day during your recycling week.
- Items will be collected from same location as household trash collection.
- **Upholstered items will not be picked up.** They may be taken to one of the city's landfill locations free of charge for city residents. Upholstered items will be collected at household locations **only** during scheduled Neighborhood Cleanups. Neighborhood Cleanups for Forest Hill are scheduled for May 12 and September 1, 2018.

• Same-day collection of appliances and some other bulk items is available. The fee is \$50 per request. Call 311 first to make sure your items are accepted for collection.

Items that will NOT be collected at household locations except during scheduled Neighborhood Cleanups:

- Upholstered mattresses
- Upholstered furniture for indoor use
- Construction materials
- Carpet
- Automobile parts
- Tires

This information is from the City of Richmond website. For more information, go to richmondgov.com/PublicWorks/RefuseCollection.aspx

River and Trail Festival 2018

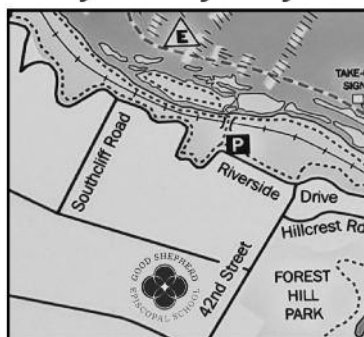
**A Celebration of Forest Hill and the James River
Benefiting Richmond Cycling Corp**



**Music by Tin Can Fish Band
Food by Kitchenette
Local crafts and vendors
Kids' activities and crafts
Raffle**



**May 12th, 2018 from 10–2 pm
At Good Shepherd Episcopal School**



Richmond Southside Transfer Station 3520 North Hopkins Road

Open Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
and Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Phone **804-232-8488**.

Items accepted include large bulk items (e.g. furniture), brush/yard waste, appliances, large items, tires without rims (limit of four, no off-road or oversized tires). Tire disposal fees are \$1 each for more than four passenger tires with DEQ permit, \$5 each for tractor-trailer tires with DEQ permit. No commercial or contractor debris is accepted.

East Richmond Road Landfill & Convenience Center 3800 E. Richmond Road

Open Monday-Friday 7a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Closed weekends. Phone **804-646-4706**.

There are now two roll-off dumpsters on-site where you can discard BULK MATERIALS such as furniture, box springs, tables, and chairs. Items accepted include yard waste/brush (natural wood only; no plywood, treated wood, etc.), tires with no rims (limit of four, no off-road or oversized tires), small appliances. Items not accepted include household waste/trash, commercial or contractor items or debris, large/bulk items, dirt, rocks, and concrete.

Selling and Buying Real Estate in a Seller's Market

By Jim Donohue

Downsizing? Upsizing? Ready for something different?

So, you've decided it's time to sell your house. You couldn't have picked a better time. House prices have recovered from the recession and have in some areas surpassed pre-recession prices. Mortgage interest rates are at historic lows. Unemployment is down and wages are increasing. Many listings are getting multiple offers and above asking price. Buyers are falling out of the trees.

What could be wrong with the above scenario? Unless you're moving to a rental you're also going to be a buyer. If you already own a house you could be at a disadvantage with buyers who don't have a house to sell. There are ways to deal with this, however, without making you homeless. If you're sitting on enough available cash to buy your next house, you don't have to worry about it.

The first step is to contact your neighborhood realtor. Have an agent come over and check out your home and make suggestions to get your house ready to go on the market. Next, ask the agent to do a Comparative Market Analysis (CMA) on your house. The CMA reviews the neighborhood for houses on the market, houses under contract, and houses that have already sold. This is how the price range for your house can be determined.

In the good old days, when it took months to buy a house, you could write a contract contingent on the sale of your house before you closed on the next one. This is referred to as a Right of First Refusal contract. The seller will continue to market their property. If they get a better offer, you'll usually have 24 hours to perform or the other buyer gets the house. Since we're in a seller's market, very few sellers will consider this type of contract. There are plenty of eager and qualified buyers in the market who don't have a house to sell. This may, however, work on a listing that's been on the market awhile.

You could put your house on the market and sell it. Selling your house is not going to be difficult if it's priced right. If you have a non-contingent contract on your house, you could make an offer on the next house subject to the settlement of your

house. The seller will still expect a lender approval letter which is subject to selling your house. This may work. Any offers that are contingent on selling your house, however, are not looked on favorably in this market.

You may say, "Well now what do I do? I can sell my house but I can't buy another one." There is another option depending on whether you can get approved for another mortgage to purchase your next house. You still have a mortgage on your home. So now you have two mortgages. This may sound financially irresponsible and reckless. It's not. As long as you can still sleep at night and not have a nervous breakdown, you can do this. Understand that not everyone can qualify for two mortgages at the same time. Strategizing your options should be discussed with an experienced mortgage professional at the beginning of the process. Agents can refer you to some excellent local lenders.

Now your house is ready to go on the market, but we're not going to do that yet. It's time to see what's on the market. You should be looking at houses with your agent and going to open houses so you know what the market is like. When you find the next house, you'll have to pounce on it and make an offer. The really good listings are selling on the first day. This means you can't go home and sleep on it since another buyer may grab it. Here's where being approved for two mortgages comes into play. One of the first questions the seller's agent is going to ask your agent is, "Does your buyer have a house to sell?" Your agent will say they have a house but are approved for a mortgage that does not require them to sell their house first. Your agent will attach a copy of a letter to your contract from your lender confirming this. Since you listened to your agent and made a great offer, the seller accepts your offer which beat the others.

Now we put your house on the market immediately and sell it. We make the closing date on your house before the closing date on the next house. If we do this, you will only have one mortgage at a time to deal with. Also, don't forget to put a rent back clause in your buyer's contract. A rent back clause means you will still occupy the first house for a set period of time after closing. This is usually less than a week. This will give you time after both closings to move into the next house.

Congratulations you have managed to sell/buy in a competitive market.

Jim Donohue has been a Forest Hill resident for 35 years and has been selling real estate for 23 years. He's a Realtor® with Long & Foster. He can be reached at 804-233-4685, 804-218-4685, or jim.donohue@Inf.com.

Green Thumb?

If you enjoy gardening and would like to meet with like-minded neighbors to swap plants and stories, the Forest Hill Gardeners group welcomes new members. The group meets on the third Sunday of the month at members' homes and gardens. This year's annual Plant Swap is coming up on Sunday, April 15. The Forest Hill Gardeners include seasoned gardeners, as well as beginners, who live in Forest Hill and nearby neighborhoods. For more information, look up the Forest Hill Gardeners group on Facebook or send an email to fhgardeners@aol.com.

Friends of Forest Hill Park Recognized by City Council

On Monday, February 12, 2018, Friends of Forest Hill Park (FFHP) was recognized by both the 4th and 5th District Richmond City Council Representatives for volunteer work they have done over the past year. Last year, the FFHP gave more than 446 volunteer hours to our parks. In February alone, they exceeded 100 volunteer hours. Please consider

volunteering with this growing group throughout the year. You can contact them at friendsofforesthillpark.org.



The members of FFHP who accepted the award are (L to R) Pat Wood, Suzette Lyon, Christie Owens, Anne Mays, Carolyn Paulette, Mary Godsey, and Andrew Stevens. Behind the group is Kristen Larson (4th District Representative) and Parker C. Agelasto (5th District Representative).



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At the Westover Hills Library

Mark Your Calendar for these Spring Events!

Special Events

March is Youth Art Month!

Visit the library to see art from local schools. Opening reception is on March 1 from 4-5 p.m.

Horton Hears a Who Movie.

March 2 at 4 p.m.

Come celebrate the birthday of the great Dr. Seuss.

Main Street Station Acapella Concert.

Saturday March 10 at 2 p.m.

Time Management: Pitfalls and Pointers.

Monday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Star Wars Day.

May 4 at 4:30 p.m.

Harry Potter Escape Room.

May 9 at 6 p.m.

For tweens and teens. Registration required. Call **804-646-8833** to sign up.

Ongoing Events

Evening Storytime

Wednesdays March 14, April 11 and 25, and May 23 at 6 p.m.

Crafternoon.

All ages welcome.

Friday, March 16 at 4 p.m.

RVA Origami.

RVA Origami folding meetup! All skill levels welcome. Basic supplies provided and no registration is required. Saturdays March 24 from 1-4 p.m., April 28 from 1-3 p.m., and May 26 from 1-4 p.m.

Commonwealth Club Film Festival. Monday evenings at 6:15. Check with the library for film titles by date.

Saturday Storytime at 10 a.m.

(March 3, then every other Saturday starting April 7.)

Join us for our interactive and engaging, fun-filled, educational story time with songs, stories and rhymes, and wonderful books and activities for ages 0 – 5 years with an adult.

Little Toes Yoga and Ballet Classes

Free 45-minute classes for children ages 3-6 years. Registration is required because space is limited! Saturdays April 21 and 28 at 3 p.m. and Wednesdays May 2 and 9 at 4:30 p.m.

In Stitches

For teens and adults knitting and crocheting. Thursdays from 2-4 p.m. Begins April 5.

Paws to R.E.A.D.®

Read to a trained therapy dog! Visit with a Paws to R.E.A.D.® team for a 20-minute one-on-one reading session!

Reading to a therapy dog has been shown to improve reading skill, enjoyment, and confidence. Contact the library at **804-646-8833** to sign up for a time slot. Times are the first Wednesday of the month from 6 to 7:30 p.m., and the third Saturday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

S.T.E.M. Thursdays

Combine science technology and fun at these creative sessions for kids in second grade and higher accompanied by an adult. Second Thursday of the month at 4 p.m.

LEGO Club

What could you build if you just had the right Legos? We provide the Legos—you provide the imagination! For grades kindergarten through sixth with an adult. Lego Club meets the third Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. (No program in March.)

Book Babies

Join our story time designed to be fun and educational for both children and adults! Enjoy our interactive story, music, finger plays, and rhymes for infants up to 17 months with an adult. Most Thursdays, 10 a.m.

Toddler Time Starting in March

Welcome to our interactive story time designed to be fun and educational with music, plays, stories, rhymes, and wonderful books. For ages 18-36 months accompanied by an adult. Most Thursdays at 11 a.m.

There will be no programs March 17-24. The library will be closed March 30 and May 28. For more information on library programs, go to rvalibrary.org/westover-hills.

Conservation Landscaping Workshop

Sponsored by Friends of Forest Hill Park

Come join us and learn what you can do to make your landscape more sustainable and wildlife friendly. We will meet at the Stone House on March 10 from 1-4 p.m. Bill Shanabruch is the instructor. He is an aquatic biologist and active member of the Reedy Creek Coalition. In his free time, he cultivates a beautiful biodiverse native garden on his property. Bill's business, Reedy Creek Environmental, is devoted to watershed restoration through the use of native plants of local ecotype, education, and resource assessments.

Some of the topics Bill will be discuss are

- Native plants and their vital role in healthy ecosystems
- Native plants of local ecotype vs. cultivars
- Conservation landscapes that serve many purposes—wildlife habitat, ease of maintenance, improved water quality, aesthetics, carbon storage, saving money
- Conservation landscapes that are flexible—size, soil and light conditions, plant types, formal vs. informal
- Identification and removal methods for non-native invasive plants
- Considerations in selecting a site for conservation

landscaping

- Site preparation to ensure success and minimize maintenance
- Resources to select the native plants that will work for your purposes
- Establishment and maintenance of a successful conservation landscape

The workshop will also include a walk in Forest Hill Park to identify common invasive plants and a hands-on demonstration of proper planting and mulching techniques. This workshop is free for members of Friends of Forest Hill Park, and costs \$10 for non-members. All participants will receive a complimentary native plant from Reedy Creek Environmental. Advanced registration is required. Workshop size is limited to 20 participants. Registration deadline is March 6, 2018.

If you are not a member of Friends of Forest Hill Park, register by visiting friendsofforesthillpark.org and click on Upcoming Events on the main page, then March 10th Workshop. If you are a member of Friends of Forest Hill Park, email your name and address to info@friendsofforesthillpark.org.

River and Trail Festival at Good Shepherd Episcopal School

By Elizabeth Coleman

It's almost springtime, so exciting outdoor events will start popping up all over Richmond in the coming weeks. I'd like to encourage you to mark your calendars for one event in particular, taking place on May 12 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Good Shepherd Episcopal School's upcoming River and Trail Festival (formerly Community Bike Bash) will celebrate all things outdoors afforded by our beautiful Forest Hill Park and James River Park System.

This year we will again showcase mountain bikes, local biking experts, and bike-related non-profits, but we will also be including river sports in the outdoor theme, as well as conservation organizations, local food, music, and artists. Most

importantly, this event will benefit the Richmond Cycling Corp, a non-profit organization which creates and coaches cycling teams for youth living in Richmond's housing projects. Come and enjoy food by Forest Hill's own Kitchenette, music by Tin Can Fish Band, crafts for the kids, and art by local artists. You can't go wrong with that line-up!

If you have questions about the River and Trail Festival or wish to set up a tour of Good Shepherd Episcopal School, contact Elizabeth Coleman at ecoleman@gses.org or 804-231-1452.

Register for the Forest Hill Spring Classic Bike Races

Be a part of the first Forest Hill Spring Classic, sponsored by the Friends of Forest Hill Park and Coqui Cyclery. The Spring Classic is a series of mountain bike races and activities for children and youth ages two to 18 years old. It will be held in Forest Hill Park on Sunday, April 8, 2018 from 1-5 p.m. (Rain date April 15.) A race will be held for three different age groups—18 years and younger; six to 14 years old; and two to six years old. Prizes will be awarded for each race. In addition to the races, there will be music, face painting, balloons, bicycle maintenance instruction, and local food trucks.

Prior to race day, Coqui Cyclery will sponsor training sessions in Forest Hill Park for three weeks to help participants prepare for the races. The training dates are March 20, March 27, and April 3 at 5:30-7 p.m. Rain dates will be held on Thursdays

March 22, March 29, and April 5. Coqui Cyclery is organizing the races as well as the training sessions.

The registration fee to participate in the Forest Hill Spring Classic is \$25 which includes the training sessions and a tee shirt. Registration online at friendsofforesthillpark.org is now open, and will end at midnight on April 5. You may register in person at the Stone House on April 7, 1-3 p.m., or April 8, the day of the race, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for \$28. For more information, visit our website: friendsofforesthillpark.org. Any proceeds from the race will be used for conservation projects in Forest Hill Park.

So, come out and join the fun!



Get Your Volunteer Hours Here!

Do you need to pick up those last few community service hours before the end of the school year? The FHNA will come to your rescue! We need folks to join the fun and be important at various neighborhood events like Music in the Park, Run for the Hills 5K, and other events. Flexible hours, great company, and social interaction. Adults welcome too! Contact foresthillassoc@gmail.com for more info.

Pauline Hillsman is pleased to announce the arrival of:
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At home childcare for infants and toddlers, ages 3 months-3 years.

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Friends of Forest Hill Park & Coqui Cyclery
present

FOREST HILL SPRING CLASSIC

APRIL 8th - FOREST HILL PARK
1pm - 5pm



Race Categories: 18 and under | 14 and under | 6 and under
\$25.00 Registration Fee • \$28.00 after April 5, 2018

Training Sessions Prior to Race
PRIZES FOR EACH RACE

Register Online:
www.friendsofforesthillpark.org

Registration Forms @ Coqui Cyclery
3416 Semmes Avenue



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4th District Council Representative

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Know Your Neighbor

A Q & A with Lisa Edwards, Founder of Lost Dog Foundation

By Judith Warrington

The Forest Hill Flyer is pleased to highlight the work of Lisa Edwards, founder of Lost Dog Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works to find homes for dogs in critical need. A Forest Hill resident since 1992, Lisa says her “real” job is being the co-owner of one of Richmond’s favorite places for brunch, Millie’s, but it’s clear that her heart’s mission is to help dogs.

Q. How did you get started in dog rescue? Have dogs always been one of your life’s focuses?

A. As a child, I always had many animals and have always been a sort of lost animal “magnet.” From an early age, I was mesmerized by James Herriot’s books and wanted to be a veterinarian, or possibly a wildlife photographer. I was a pre-Vet student at Virginia Tech for my first few years of college.

Q. Much of Lost Dog Foundation’s work focuses on helping dogs in Mexico, the Yucatan in particular. How did this begin?

A. The Yucatan has been my “go-to” spot for travel and since 1991, when I absolutely fell in love with the whole area. At that time though, the population was much smaller, so it was only in later years, after 2008 or so, that I started to see all of the homeless dogs on the streets. The area has experienced rapid population growth and with that there has been a staggering animal overpopulation problem. The Yucatan is an area of unbelievable beauty and natural wonder, but the situation for animals is bleak and made worse by transient human populations.

Because I traveled there so often over the years, I became friends with some great women who were starting to work in animal rescue. I eagerly began to help, and started bringing supplies whenever I traveled. I did what I could when I was there.

I began volunteering with VIDAS (a vet group from Colorado) in their spay/neuter clinics in 2010 in Playa del Carmen, and from one of those clinics I met a man named Ricardo Pimentel. He was an independent guy just rescuing an incredible number of dogs, with no money, and had about 45 dogs at his house. When I saw his incredible effort, I was convinced that I could, and needed to, do more. He and I began a partnership of finding land for a shelter. In 2012, a sanctuary was established outside of Cancun where now more than 350 dogs live and don’t have to fear life on the streets. Part of my impetus for establishing a non-profit was to be able to raise the funds for establishing Tierra de Animales.

Q. How many animals have been impacted by your foundation?

A. We have done several small clinics just through my foundation and our offshoot, known as Help Tulum Dogs. That is an effort specifically targeted in Tulum, a fast-growing small town which has severe problems with animal disease,

homelessness, and abandonment. My foundation just partnered with VIDAS to do a mega six-day spay/neuter clinic last November in Tulum and we sterilized 1,004 animals.

Considering my adoption work through Tierra de Animals, Lost Dog Foundation, Help Tulum Dogs, and supporting other rescuers, I would guess that I’ve sent approximately 700 dogs into adoptive homes in the United States and Canada since 2012. I’ve personally brought back about 25 or so here to Richmond. I’m usually bringing a dog or two back on each trip and have quite a few adopted “Meximutts” in our neighborhood and around Richmond!

Q. Would you tell us about your efforts to help dogs in our neighborhood?

A. Well, I seem to frequently be in the right place at the right time to go and look for and grab a dog! It hasn’t been a plan. I just have a lot of experience with dogs, and they generally seem to cooperate with me! I am always happy to go out and try and catch a dog who is loose, as this is my worst fear as a dog mom. I know I can usually help someone out this way and get the dog to safety.

Q. How can people help your efforts either here at home or in Mexico?

A. People can help, of course, by donating to Lost Dog Foundation through our website, lostdogfoundation.org. I have also been trapping and spaying/neutering feral cats on 43rd Street and Taylor Streets for more than three years now. I support them with food, so donations go towards those efforts too (food donations can be dropped off on my porch!). If anyone is traveling to the Cancun area for vacation, I am always in need of helpers to take down dog supplies, as I can’t do it alone!

Q. What do you wish every potential dog owner knew?

A. I think every dog owner should know that adopting an animal is a commitment. That animal becomes part of your family. Sometimes they are not perfect and make you a little crazy, but just like you can’t really dump your family at the shelter, you shouldn’t dump your animals either. Animals are family!

Judith Warrington rescued her own late best friend, Bart, who was once a stray in the neighborhood.



Lisa and her furry friends. Marley (big white one in front), Pirata (on left, mother of Marley), Leona (looking up), and Chica (brown girl) are part of the family.

Want to Know More About the RPD? Sign Up for the Citizens Police Academy

Did you know that the Richmond Police Department offers a Citizens Police Academy that provides residents an opportunity to learn more about their operations? This year's academy will be held once a week from March 22 through April 24, 2018.

This **free** Citizens Police Academy is designed to introduce citizens to the RPD, improve relationships with RPD, help participants gain knowledge of police operations, develop stronger advocates, and promote safety in the community. Sessions will include aspects of RPD patrol functions, crime prevention through environmental design, personal safety, hands-on exercises, tours within the Richmond Police Department, and more. The academy is also perfect for persons interested in a career in law enforcement.

Graduates of the Citizens Police Academy officially become Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS). Members of VIPS are notified of volunteer opportunities, events, special programs, and services with RPD. Graduates may be offered participation on special boards and planning committees.

To apply, citizens should complete the application at richmondgov.com/Police/documents/CitizensAcademyApplicationNew.pdf. Please return the completed application before the start of the Academy. Please call **804-646-3354** for additional information.

Editor's Note: I participated in the RPD Citizens Police Academy recently and it was fascinating. We had some classes with speakers, while others were "field trips." We visited the 911 call center and witnessed how emergency calls are handled. We also took a trip to the cadet training center where I discovered I could never do a police officer's job.



Turn Your Trash Into Cash!

Forest Hill Neighborhood Yard Sale

Saturday • June 2 • 8am-Noon

Everyone who signs up will be listed on the official map, plus we'll run an ad in the Saturday *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and notice on Hills & Heights along with Craigslist showing our map and listing your address.

For Forest Hill Association members it's **FREE**. For Non-Members the cost is just \$15 per household for the membership, but the deadline to sign up is May 25th.

**For sign up or questions contact Dorna Braswell
at foresthillassoc@gmail.com**

Visit www.foresthillneighborhood.com for more information.




Forest Hill

FHNA Calendar of Spring Events

Sunday, March 18	Run for the Hills 5K, 9 a.m. at Forest Hill Park
Tuesday, March 20	FHNA Membership Meeting, 7 p.m. at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church
Thursday, March 22	4th District meeting, 6 p.m. at Huguenot Community Center (located at the side of Huguenot High School).
Saturday, March 24	Friends of Forest Hill Park invasive species removal in the park, 10 a.m. to noon. Meet in the park near the stone pyramid across from Brookside Road.
Sunday, April 8	Friends of Forest Hill Park Spring Classic bike races. From 1-5 p.m. in the park. For more information, see page 12
Saturday, April 14	Forest Hill Walking History Tour. 9:30 a.m. to noon. Learn about the homes and environs of Forest Hill. Meet at the Stone House. For more info, go to friendsofforesthillpark.org .
Tuesday, April 17	FHNA membership meeting at 7 p.m., Forest Hill Presbyterian Church
Saturday, April 28	Friends of Forest Hill Park invasive species removal in the park, 10 a.m. to noon. Meet in the park near the stone pyramid across from Brookside Road.
Tuesday, May 1	Deadline for articles and advertisements for the Forest Hill Flyer summer issue.
Sunday, May 13	Music in the Park, the Illbillys (Fun covers in cool, different genres), 6-8 p.m.
Tuesday, May 15	FHNA membership meeting at 7 p.m., Forest Hill Presbyterian Church
Saturday, May 26	Friends of Forest Hill Park invasive species removal in the park, 10 a.m. to noon. Meet in the park near the stone pyramid across from Brookside Road.
Saturday, June 2	Neighborhood Yard Sale, 8 a.m. to noon
Saturday, June 9	Forest Hill Walking History Tour. 9:30 a.m. to noon. Learn about the homes and environs of Forest Hill. Meet at the Stone House. For more info, go to friendsofforesthillpark.org .
Sunday, June 10	Music in the Park, Paulo Franco & The Freightliners (Alt Country), 6-8 p.m.

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: _____		Email: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Household Membership \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Years \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Annual Membership \$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes , I want to join the Neighborhood Watch and receive email updates about crime and safety in our neighborhood.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes , please send me email updates on current neighborhood events. <input type="checkbox"/> No emails please.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes , I'm interested in volunteering with FHNA! Pay online at www.foresthillneighborhood.com or by check made payable to Forest Hill Neighborhood Association ATTN: FHNA Treasurer P.O. Box 13201 • 1021 Hloaks Rd. Richmond, VA 23225-9995
		
For more information visit www.foresthillneighborhood.com		