



The Forest Hill Neighborhood  
Association Newsletter

Winter 2011

# Flyer

**Forest Hill Neighborhood Association meetings  
held every second Thursday at 7:00 pm  
at The Stone House - Please Attend!**

We are seeking story ideas and  
articles for upcoming issues.  
Please send suggestions to  
martha\_cooper@verizon.net

Published by the Forest Hill  
Neighborhood Association

For Ad Sales please contact Phil  
Licking at fhnaweb@gmail.com

## *The 2nd Annual Halloween Howl! was a Howling Success!*

By Sally Kannemeyer

On the expanse of green lawn beside the Stone House in Forest Hill Park, on a perfect Fall day, neighbors chatted, munched, and sipped cider while their dogs cavorted and competed for prizes.

Wacky and wonderful, sweet and silly, the 36 costumed pooches who competed at the second annual Halloween Howl! in Forest Hill Park stole the show – and our hearts. Penuche (pronounced puh-noo-chee – it's brown sugar fudge), Rainey, Jem, Lucy, Griffin, Gabe, Doodles, Belle, Katrina, Malachi and Guinness were among the canine stand-outs – not just because of their inventive Halloween costumes, but also for their simply amazing talents.

Egg in a Spoon Race, Fido Fetch, and Trick for Treat were hilarious challenges for dogs and two-legged companions alike. Then all dogs in costume and their owners paraded around the green in a large circle, to compete for prizes such as Scariest, Cutest, Most Realistic, and Best Dog & Owner Duo. For the grand finale, everyone stood in place and howled.

Halloween Howl! is a signature event hosted by the Friends of Forest Hill Park. It takes place on the Sunday before Halloween. See you there next year!



## Forest Hill Flyer and Website have New Leaders

New volunteers have stepped forward to take over two important jobs for the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association (FHNA) that have been held by long-term workers. Phil Licking created the website and has served as webmaster for the association for many years. Sue Cline will be taking over for him. Martha Cooper has been editing the Forest Hill Flyer for five years, and Linda Mills will be taking over that position.

"I have enjoyed editing the Flyer," Martha said. "I have met many interesting people writing my "Know your Neighbor" stories, and have encountered quite a few "Celebrity Pooches." However, Martha now has a part-time job, a yen to travel, and has decided to let someone else take over the Flyer.

Linda Mills comes to this position with a strong background in writing and editing. She and her family have resided on W. 42nd Street for 27 years. Their current home is the second house they have enjoyed living in on that street.

"We bought a 'starter home' in 1984 and never left the neighborhood. The neighbors are the most wonderful people. This is the best place to live and rear children," Linda says. "Where else can you walk to the Farmer's Market, ride bikes by the James River, and play in Forest Hill Park all in one day?"

Linda and her husband David have two sons. Their older son lives in Brooklyn, New York and works as a photographer. Their younger son is a freshman at Open High School. Linda and David love to garden and chat with the neighbors they encounter on their walks with their dog.

The next issue of the Flyer is scheduled for April 1, 2012. Linda will be notifying contributors around the middle of February to begin submitting articles and ads by March 1. It normally takes about a month to get the publication together and printed. Bo Williams of Total Printing and a Forest Hill resident will continue doing the layout and publishing.

Phil Licking (past president of the FHNA) is the ad manager for the Flyer and has served as webmaster since 2004. Phil has helped to launch a number of neighborhood events including Music in the Park, the 5K, the House Tour and Regatta. "I've always believed that the FHNA's highest goal should be to give back to the neighborhood in real and tangible ways, and our neighborhood events are a big part of what makes us a 'community'. I'll continue to focus my efforts on neighborhood events and generating the revenue needed to keep them going."

Phil's job will be handed over to the able hands of Sue Cline, a 16 year resident of Forest Hill. Sue serves as a member of the FHNA board, has been active in Historic Designation, and several other community initiatives. Sue's background includes 15 years as a turnaround specialist, and presently works in economic development and new business creation with new Virginia businesses. Sue enjoys gardening, baking and can frequently be found walking her two dogs through the neighborhood.

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# President's Message from Richard Day



Forest Hill

South of Average, Closer to Paradise...

This time of year is when we can enjoy a change of product at the Farmer's Market; look forward to the possibility of sledding days at the park; enjoy a hot beverage on a walk back from Crossroads; rake piles of leaves to the curb; the same leaves that serve as fresh paper on which our canines can send secret messages to their brethren; and we can curse Richmond Public Schools for keeping our kids home because of a little ice on the road. Hey, this isn't Minneapolis.

Change is inevitable. Sometimes it is welcome, other times it is insufferable. The subject of change is important right now, because of recent issues that have enveloped our tiny little neighborhood association. But first, some good news.

Counsel person Graziano, announced at the last meeting, that funds have been appropriated to put up flashing lights at the crosswalks on Forest Hill Avenue. They should be installed by first quarter of 2012, and will even have a push button that starts a flashing light to get drivers attention. It may take more than a flashing light to get some drivers attention, but we will see. This is a significant accomplishment. All that remains to be seen is...will it work to help pedestrians safely cross this real life Frogger game? The other traffic milestone we are working towards is the installation of speed bumps or humps on both Duntson Avenue between the Reedy Creek Bridge and 41<sup>st</sup> Street, and also on Reedy Avenue from 43<sup>rd</sup> to 45<sup>th</sup> Streets.

The neighborhood bylaws were in need of updating, due mostly to some contradictions, unneeded double coverage, and maybe a typo here and there. So the executive board, made up of 11 fellow neighbors, got together as the bylaws state we must, and went line by line, updated, cleaned up, and made more practical this lofty document. It took at least two meetings, countless emails, and a dozen or so drafts. As is also required by the bylaws, the changes must be approved by 2/3rds votes of current members that live within the neighborhood (you must be present to vote). That event took place at October's meeting.

Incredibly, only half of the ten sections were approved as amended, therefore, those sections of the by-laws remain unchanged. Due to a few, in fact less than 2% of the neighborhoods population, and a hair over 4% of the current membership voted against the those amendments. Yet only one of the dissenters is running for a seat on the executive board. I am not trying to belittle the dissenters, but trying to get across a point that if there were more dissatisfied members

of our speck of a community, then you did not make an effort to come to the meeting. I wish you would have.

There were efforts by many to spread the gospel about the importance of this meeting, and yet we had a below average turnout. Based on comments I have heard from others, the reason is as obvious as a felled tree after Hurricane Irene. Folks do not want conflict, contention, power struggles, and overall negativity. What I believe most of you want is positive energy, good times, the opportunity to help the neighborhood and their neighbors. What we all want is a great place to live. When the issues of the day get ugly, it appears that many choose to stay in their peaceful hovels. As a U.S. President once said..."It's the quality of life stupid". Well, maybe it wasn't exactly that.

It is important that one should never ignore issues of importance. In fact there were three non voting members at the meeting (over 13% of overall attendance) that came concerned over neighborhood association boundaries. I think that is the only matter of serious contention, and yet not that many voices are making themselves heard on the subject. If something like that is important to you, then please, speak up.

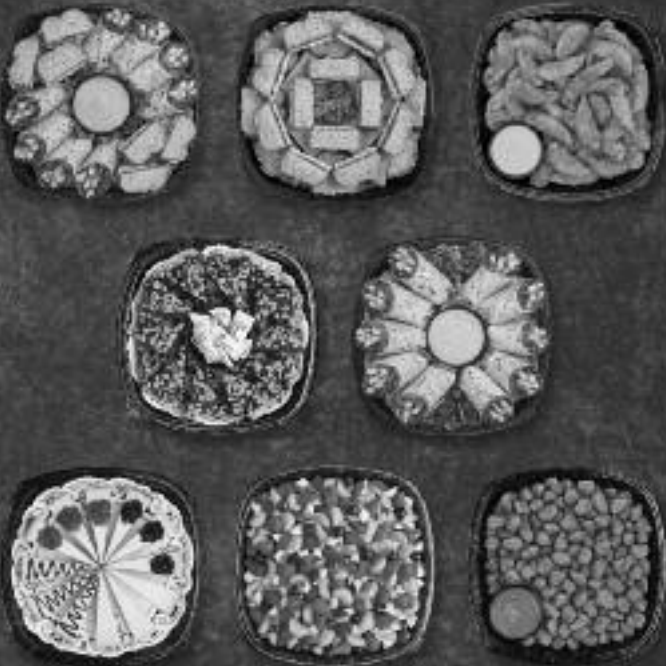
We don't want just a few deciding for the majority who choose to remain in absentia, however, most of us are either not interested, or trust the few to make the right decisions. What should never happen is the hindering of a great opportunity to accomplish something truly historic, like making the neighborhood a historic district. It was a huddled few that decided on their own to shoot for a goal that had no positive impact on homeowners within the association boundaries.

Is there overall disinterest in the association? Should we stop Music in the Park? Should we not support Friends of Forest Hill Park? Should we liquidate our bank balance and just donate all the money to needy causes...for the last time? Should we not support the Charter School, the police that protect us, and veterans? Should we not have a historic district? Should we cancel the FH5K? Most importantly, should we ditch our cumulative voices, or should we just ditch by-laws, and have a few guiding sentences on a chalk board?

That is really up to you, the residents of this neighborhood. You can decide whether or not to be involved or at least voice your opinion. If you are reading this, and are not an active member, that is your choice. But if you enjoy all of the aforementioned, I implore you to get involved somehow, some way. It really doesn't take much. Maybe attend one or two meetings a year. Always know you may call or email me, at least while I hold this post, or even after I am replaced. We would truly like to hear from you all. What's on your mind when it comes to life in Forest Hill.

"The only man who never makes a mistake, is the man who never does anything" - Theodore Roosevelt.

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# Storm water, Pollution and You

By John Allen, Environmental Technician, Richmond DPU

Did you know that quite often stormwater and other materials which enter a storm drain discharge directly to a stream or creek? It's true. In many areas of the City stormwater runoff is collected in a system which is completely separate from the sewer system. This system is called the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System or MS4 for short. Storm drains in the Forest Hill area are part of the MS4. Many of these drains discharge directly to Reedy Creek and the James River. The City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities (DPU) is committed to improving the health of our local waterways. One way that DPU is working toward that goal is through the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Program.

An illicit discharge is defined as any discharge into a storm drain system that is not composed entirely of stormwater or uncontaminated ground water. However, water entering the MS4 as a result of private residential car washing activities, lawn watering or air conditioning condensation drains is not generally a concern and are not considered illicit discharges. Sources of illicit discharges can be spills or dumping of lawn or garden chemicals, pet waste, vehicle fluids, leaky vehicles or machinery, leaking gas and oil tanks, leaking sanitary sewer lines, failing septic systems, floor drains and basement sumps.

Illicit discharges enter the storm sewer system without being treated and results in high levels of pollutants that go directly into local waterways. These pollutants can cause unpleasant odors, public health concerns and harm aquatic life.

DPU Stormwater Utility staff have been actively working to eliminate the sources of pollutants impacting our local waterways and could use your help. Please remember to properly dispose of household hazardous waste, store chemicals and petroleum-containing products so that they are not exposed to rainfall and pick up after pets. Remember, if it goes on the ground, it goes in the water. Additionally, if you have any information about an incident which you believe may be an illicit discharge you may contact DPU by calling 311 or by sending an email to [RID@Richmondgov.com](mailto:RID@Richmondgov.com).

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## Forest Hill Has New Representation in the Virginia General Assembly

By Robley Jones

We just completed the decennial census, the redistricting that follows, and November's elections. These events changed who represents our precinct, 402. Prior to redistricting our precinct was split between House Districts 69 (Carr) and 70 (McQuinn). Now all of Forest Hill is in House District 69, and we are represented by Delegate Betsy Carr.

We had formerly been represented in the Senate by Donald McEachin (Senate District 9). Now Senator John Watkins (Senate District 10) represents our community in the Virginia Senate.

Additional information regarding Delegate Carr and Senator Watkins is available at

<http://legis.state.va.us/>



Betsy Carr



John Watkins

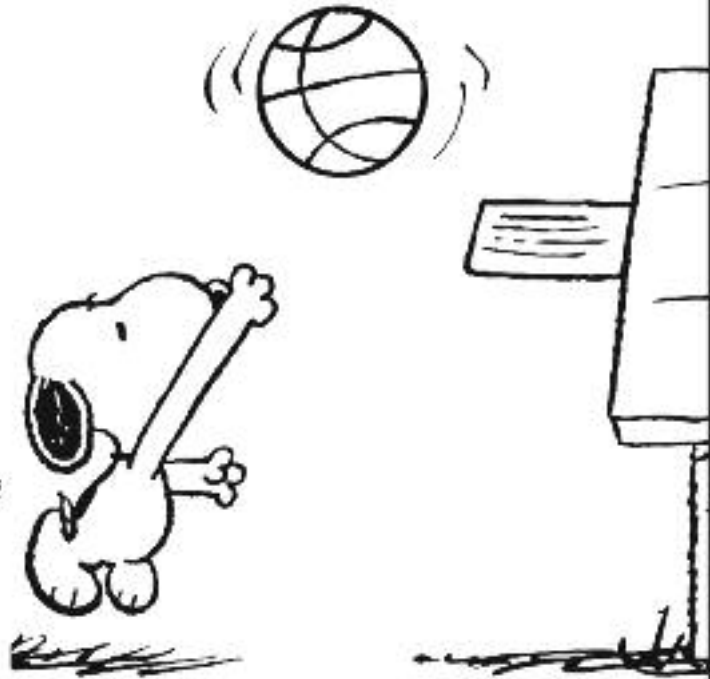
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## Funding needed for Neighborhood Playground

By Donna Holder, Pastor, Westover Hills UMC

For many years, the playground at the corner of Westover Hills Boulevard and New Kent Ave has been enjoyed by children, parents and grandparents from the neighborhood and from around the metro Richmond area. The playground, owned by Westover Hills United Methodist Church (UMC), is now in need of renovation. Plans to replace all large items of playground equipment are under way. An initial design is in place, and continues to be reviewed and enhanced by members of the Westover Hills Playground Committee. The cost of the complete renovation, including equipment, installation and ground surfacing will be just over \$45,000. The church has already raised \$10,000 and the Westover Hills Neighborhood Association has pledged financial support as well. The target date for the completion of the renovation is early April of 2012. In order to make this happen, funding will need to be in place by mid-February.

Please consider making a donation to the "playground fund" at Westover Hills UMC. Contributions may be made by PayPal from the church's website, [www.westoverhillsumc.org](http://www.westoverhillsumc.org), or by sending a check made out to WHUMC to the address: 1705 Westover Hills Blvd., Richmond, VA 23225. Receipts will be provided to donors for tax purposes. Donors who give more than \$500 will be recognized on a plaque to be displayed at the playground. Please share this effort with your friends and neighbors, especially those who have used the playground! Encourage them to contribute also.

For updates on the progress of the playground renovation or to contact a member of the playground committee, see the WHUMC website, listed above. Thank you!

## Celebrity Pooch Griffin, Threeish

What's your name and age?  
Griffin, Threeish

Who's your human?  
Richard Day, Rosemary Bourne and two little ones, Liam and Luke at West 41st Street.

Where and when did you find your home?  
In October 2009, I was adopted by my family from BARK, who had saved me from the Louisa Animal Shelter. They say I was "running wild" in Louisa County, but I prefer to put all of that behind me.

What's your heritage?  
I am rumored to be a Border Collie/Australian Shepherd Mix, but my parentage remains uncertain. I never knew my father and don't remember my mother, so I cannot provide an accurate account.

What's your favorite toy?  
I love pulling the stuffing out of stuffed animals. Their eyes are tasty too.

What's your best trick?  
I can crawl on command.

What are your best traits?  
I am very obedient, and can walk around the yard with my masters without fear of running off. I am also very playful.

What else do you have to say about yourself?  
I love visits from other doggie friends.



## Students Study Retail Activity on Forest Hill Avenue

VCU students from the Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs have been exploring the neighborhood. Kathy Graziano, the Westover Hills Merchants Association, and the Westover Hills Neighborhood Association asked a class of urban planning graduate students to study the Westover Hills shopping district. The final report will be presented at O'Toole's on Wed., Dec. 14 at 7 pm.

This fall you may have seen students conducting surveys,

measuring sidewalks and generally collecting information about the area in order to assess its existing conditions. Students have also been conducting market research to identify potential business development opportunities. The students are currently preparing a plan of action for the shopping district covering urban design, small business development, district marketing and promotion.

Over 20,000 cars drive down Forest Hill Avenue everyday. At a focus group with the VCU students, Forest Hill residents said the area was not attractive, offered few shopping opportunities, and was not inviting for people to stop and shop. "Trader Joe's would be a great addition," suggested one participant.

David Lynch

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## Wishing You Happy Holidays!



### 3720 Brookside Road

A charming arts & crafts bungalow with renovated kitchen featuring solid surface counter tops and new stainless GE appliances. This 2 bedroom home has beautiful refinished heart of pine floors through out, insulated double pane windows with a 30 year transferable warranty, and a tastefully renovated bathroom. Within walking distance to The South of the James Farmers Market, Forest Hill Lake, and Crossroads Coffee shop. Conveniently located to all major highways and only minutes from downtown.



### 2W 31st Street

An adorable stucco cottage within minutes of the James River, Forest Hill Park, and Crossroads Coffee shop. Completely renovated with beautiful Heart of Pine wood floors, remodeled kitchen with granite counter tops, new fixtures/ appliances, and authentic tin ceiling. Freshly painted with unique period details through out. Generous back yard with privacy fence. Large deck holds a 6 person hot tub surrounded by wrought iron pergola with privacy draping. Conveniently located minutes from downtown and all major highways.



### 4313 Hillcrest Road

This freshly painted two story colonial features beautiful hardwoods through out, 3 bedrooms and a fully renovated tiled bath on the 2nd level. The first level features a spacious living room with a wood burning fireplace. The heated & cooled basement features a washer/dryer and is roughed in for an additional bath. A separate dining room allows access to a wonderful screened in porch overlooking an immaculately landscaped backyard with a new custom privacy fence and off street parking. Nestled on a corner lot within walking distance to the James River Park system, Forest Hill Park, Buttermilk Trail and the South of the James Farmers Market. Conveniently located to all major highways and only minutes from downtown.



### 802 W 29th Street

This adorable stucco colonial is located in a most desirable location of Woodland Heights, only 2 blocks from the James River Park system. It features refinished hardwood floors through out, a large living room with a wood burning fireplace perfect for entertaining with direct access to the screened in side porch. The formal dining room leads into a kitchen featuring a half bath and breakfast nook. From the kitchen you can access the screened side porch, fenced in back yard and stairway leading to a clean and dry utility basement featuring washer/dryer and plenty of room for storage. This charming home is conveniently located just minutes from downtown, Forest Hill Park, and all major highways.

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# *Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts RECEIVES SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT Program funded by grant from Prevention Connections*

By Kristen Larson

Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts (PHSSA), a Richmond Public School, has received a \$2,000 grant from Richmond-based nonprofit Prevention Connections to establish a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) walk at the school.

PHSSA, Virginia's first elementary charter school, will be holding a school-wide walking and biking event. This event will educate students about the benefits of walking and biking in

relation to personal health, traffic safety and how transportation affects themselves and their community.

Funded by Prevention Connections, the event will publicize the national Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, which aims to increase physical activity among schoolchildren.

"We hope this will inspire other communities to participate in the Safe

Routes to School program. The number of children who walk and bike to school has decreased by 73 percent over the last 40 years, and we need to turn that around," said Emily Keyte, PHSSA School Nurse.

As of 2009, 13 percent of children ages 5 to 14 walked or bicycled to school, compared to 48 percent of students in 1969, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) 2009 National Household Travel Survey (NHTS).

The SRTS program is funded in Virginia by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Prevention Connections.

VDOT's SRTS program assists localities and schools in the development of plans, activities and infrastructure improvements to make walking and bicycling to school a safe and appealing transportation option for students. Prevention Connections promotes the SRTS program by providing technical assistance and financial incentives for Virginia schools to create safe walking and biking routes. Prevention Connections also helps schools connect with VDOT representatives. More information about Prevention Connections' SRTS mini-grants can be found at [www.preventionconnections.org/funding.shtml](http://www.preventionconnections.org/funding.shtml).



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## *43rd Street Festival Raises \$12K for Freedom House*

By Robin Cage

The 43rd Street Festival ran smoothly this year, despite a little afternoon rain. Having survived 95 degree weather in the past, the cooler, slightly rainy day set the stage for another successful show.

Both artists and Freedom House were pleased with the supportive crowds. The 20th annual t-shirts were very popular and the raffle particularly popular this year. Freedom House made about \$12,000 at the show and continues to be very appreciative of the work we do to raise money for them.

Many thanks to John Sankey and the Bluz Catz for handling the music and keeping the energy going throughout the day. Also, a note of appreciation to the neighborhood for supporting such a great event each year.

## FHNA 2012 Officers and Board

At November's FHNA meeting two new board members agreed to serve a two year term. Carolyn Paulette, Historic Designation Committee Chair, and participant in the 2009 Forest Hill House Tour and Shannon Taylor Neighborhood Watch Coordinator since 2006. Other board members are: Janet Bowers, Dorna Braswell, Sue Cline, Martha Cooper and Robley Jones.

Officers for 2012 are all incumbents: President Richard Day; Vice President Luke McCall; Secretary Vicky Hamrick; and Treasurer Zac Sheldon.



## Solar Powered Pedestrian Crossing

The City expects the Solar Powered Pedestrian Crossing Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) System to be installed the end of November. These systems will be installed at the intersection of 41st Street and Forest Hill Avenue, as well as 43rd Street and Forest Hill Avenue.

The system is designed to operate 24 hours a day/seven days per week. The beacons will begin flashing when a pedestrian activates a push button.





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## Beware of Counterfeit Medicine

By Shannon D. Taylor, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

Have you ever bought medicine using the internet? How much do you trust the website to provide legitimate, FDA approved medicine? A recent review of over 8,000 websites claiming to be legitimate pharmacies revealed that only 4% appeared to comply with pharmacy laws and practice standards. Unfortunately the internet has made it easy for criminals to swindle consumers into buying products that appear to be real but are actually counterfeit.

Criminals don't care about the quality of fake or adulterated products and have been known to use highway paint and other harmful chemicals to produce medicines that look real. If you or your loved ones order medicine from online pharmacies in an effort to pinch pennies, make sure you trust that website. The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy is an independent organization whose members abide by strict laws and standards. Visit <http://www.nabp.net/programs/accreditation/vipps/> to find an approved online pharmacy from which to purchase medications. You and your health will be glad you did.



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**Holiday Tasting Schedule**

(Please call us for details on specific events.)

Thursday, December 1st: Beer Tasting (Dogfish Head)  
Friday, December 2nd: Wine, Beer, Music & Food (Sausage Craft)  
Friday, December 9th: Wine, Beer & Music  
Friday, December 16th: Wine, Beer & Music  
Friday, December 23rd: Wine Tasting  
Saturday, December 24th: closing early (6pm)  
Friday, December 30th: Wine Tasting  
Saturday, December 31st: closing early (6pm)



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# Run for the Hills!



Saturday, March 17, 2012



# *Forest Hill Historic Designation Committee Appeals Nomination to the National Park Service*

Carolyn Paulette, Chair, Forest Hill Historic Designation Committee


On Sept. 22, 2011, the Historic Designation committee had the opportunity to present the Forest Hill historic district nomination at a joint meeting of the State Review Board and the Historic Resources Board. More than 20 neighborhood residents also attended the meeting, and 11 gave prepared remarks to the boards. The Committee presented petitions of 446 signatures from residents in support of historic designation for Forest Hill. The Historic Designation Committee was allowed 15 minutes to present 37 new historic sites and structures requested at the December 16, 2010 Board hearing. Channel 8 News covered the hearing. Their news report may be reviewed at [historicforesthill.com](http://historicforesthill.com).

The State Review Board voted unanimously against recommending the nomination as written for listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register, echoing Virginia Department of Historic Resources staff's concern that the period of significance of 1804-1961 was too broad and that criterion D, archeology, lacked excavations to support the research. The Board did not address the "discontiguous character" of the three apartment complexes on Forest Hill Avenue west of 41st St, the two churches, or the nursing home, buildings that DHR still considered problematic. The Department of Historic Resources'

staff stated that Forest Hill deserves historic designation only as a trolley car suburb. They ignored all of the research on surviving 19th Century resources and historic sites.

The Historic Resources Board, in contrast to the State Review Board, voted unanimously to defer their decision on the nomination until the National Park Service completes an intensive-level review. The Historic Designation Committee mailed their appeal on October 4, 2011. The National Park Service has 45 business days to review the nomination. If the National Park Service approves the nomination, it will be listed immediately on the National Register. If they deny the nomination, they will provide recommended changes for its approval. The Committee will refile the nomination according to the National Park Service's recommendations if necessary.

The Historic Designation Committee appreciates the neighborhood's support of the nomination. The Committee has repaid the \$5000 that the Forest Hill Neighborhood Association gave the committee in November, 2009. In addition, they completed all of the survey work and research and paid the additional expenses. They are fortunate that their consultant Nancy Kraus has continued to work through the 21/2 years' process donating hours of research time. They look forward to Forest Hill being approved as a historic district in 2012.



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# Join us for a little Holiday Cheer!



Thursday,  
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6:00-8:00pm  
at the 43rd Street Gallery

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Forest Hill Neighborhood Association

*We Need You!  
Please take the  
time and join!*

Calling all volunteer students and friends of Forest Hill Park!

Monthly Volunteer Work Party at Forest Hill Park  
Held on the 3rd Sunday of each month  
4 pm - 6 pm

Meet at the Stone House

Goal: Habitat restoration of the Old Azalea Garden

Wear sunhats and long sleeves. Bring work gloves, pruning tools and a weekend warrior spirit.

Good drinks and energy bars provided. Refresh a few extra points!

July 17  
Aug 21  
Sept 18



Oct 16  
Nov 30  
Dec 18  
Jan 16

## Forest Hill Neighborhood Association Membership Form

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**No** emails please.

Pay by cash or check payable to Forest Hill Neighborhood Association  
ATTN: Zac Sheldon, FHNA Treasurer  
4114 Springhill Ave  
Richmond, VA 23225

For more information visit [www.foreshillneighborhood.com](http://www.foreshillneighborhood.com)

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