



The Forester



Issue No. 3

Forest Park Civic Association

April 2010



SPRING SPRUCE-UP

By Jean Bower

Yes, the title above is a play on words. Since we are Forest Park, "Sprucing- Up" should come naturally. First I'll begin with some background.

The front page article of the January, 2010 Forester by President George Schmidt was a challenging kick-off for the New Year. George wrote of the Board having a retreat on January 16, to focus on general categories. He charged us to make a commitment to our Civic Association.

After thinking about his message, I called George to discuss my concerns, particularly regarding aesthetics in the community. I told him the Retreat was a good idea and he invited me to attend. Not being a board member, I was delighted to be included. **Having resided in Forest Park East for 43 years, I'm proud that this Association has been ongoing for almost 50 years.** And diligent volunteers have kept it alive that long.

So I attended the Retreat on January 16 and became even more enthused when the attendees were willing to commit their energy and time to share ideas for the Association. And the ideas that popped like firecrackers on the 4th, will be developed, discussed, and refined by the Task Forces that grew out of the discussions. President Schmidt listed the ideas on page 6 of the **March 2010 Forester. Some won't get off the ground, some will fly, and some will crash. But the summation of the Retreat is that it was time very productive.**

Now to get to my concern; that being how the neighborhood looks – the Aesthetics. We have some SPRUCING-UP to do! Not just a spring fling, but keeping the momentum going.

The snowfalls hid a lot of debris which is now visible along street curbs, sidewalks, and lawns. Fallen branches, left over leaves, twigs, and the myriad of stuff blown, dropped or tossed needs to be picked up. Several cursory drive-bys revealed turf along curbs torn up by tire tracks plus a collection of bags and bottles. We have our work cut out for us! Make a game of it. Give the kids and or grandkids disposable gloves, doubled plastic bags and send them on a mission to SPRUCE-UP. The fullest bag(s) get **rewards!** **It's good exercise, plus an opportunity to come out of hibernation and greet your neighbors. You'll feel so good about doing and seeing how much nicer your property presents itself to the neighborhood!**

Anyone needing a helper can check the teen work list or call Jean Bower at 888-7847. So get hopping; the Bunny is on his way and SPRUCE-UP for Spring!



★ CONGRATULATIONS TO NORTHLAND HIGH SCHOOL senior, Jared Sullinger ★
★ who has been named The #1 high school basketball player in the nation. His fa- ★
★ ther, Satch Sullinger has been named to #1 high school basketball coach in the ★
★ nation. Northland has the #1 ranking in the US for High School Basketball. ★
★ Good Luck in the rest of the State tournament. ★



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FOREST PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES

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Forest Park East

6. Paul Fenstermaker _____ 436-8777
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8. Bob Fisher _____ 844-6173
9. Carol Pence _____ 846-5649
10. Loretta Walker _____ 785-1553
11. Anna Durette _____ 890-1512
12. Todd Lisk _____ 895-9994
13. Charles Traylor _____ 899-1156
14. Vacant

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FORESTER DEADLINE

The FORESTER deadline for the May issue is Thursday April 15. Delivery will be made on Sunday, May 2 by Dispatch Consumer Services along with grocery ads.

For any other information please call Susan Buttermore at 885-1434. Advertisements can be mailed to or dropped off at 1229 Vinewood Dr., Columbus, OH 43229, or emailed to:

forester_ads@fpcivic.org

If you encounter problems with an advertiser, please notify Susan Buttermore at 885-1434 or email to:

forester_ed@fpcivic.org

Foresters are available at the Karl Road Library, Donatos Pizza, Dairy Queen, and Sequoia Pro Bowl.

FORESTER BILLING ADDRESS:

Checks should be made payable to Forest Park Civic Association and mailed to 1229 Vinewood Drive, Columbus, OH 43229.

CONTRIBUTORS THIS MONTH ARE:

Carol Overfield, George Schmidt, Dan Hartzell,
Susan Buttermore, Barbara Brooks,
Fran Compton, Jean Bower

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FOREST PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING MARCH 9, 2010
By Carol Overfield

The meeting was called to order by President, George Schmidt, at 7:00 at the Epworth Methodist Church. The Treasurer's report was presented by Dan Hartzell. Carol Pence made a motion to accept the report. It was seconded by Lyn Denney and accepted by all.

George reported that the 4th of July parade will be July 3. It is hoped that Forest Park will have an entry.

A representative from the library stated that a levy will be coming up for a vote in the November election. If this levy doesn't pass, some branches will probably close.

Dave Kienzel gave a report on security. There were 5 tickets issued in January and February. An arbitrator will rule on the police redistricting by June 11.

Dick Buttermore reported on membership. Carol Pence and Jana Waltman have been working on forms changes. These should be ready by the end of the month in order to mail out the membership applications. There will be a membership blitz on July 10. Volunteers will spend 4 hours visiting every home in Forest Park to either collect dues or thank those who have already sent in their money.

The deadline for the April Forester is March 11. Lyn Denney gave the NCC report. The banquet will be the first part of May. George Hadler is sponsoring a classic car show at his shopping center at Cleveland and 161 after the 4th of July parade. Jeff Murray has retired as chairman of the development committee. We need a representative from Forest Park to attend the development meetings.

There will be a cleanup on 161 on April 10. Mary Sguerra will report on the bowling tournament that was at the Sequoia Bowling Alley over the weekend.

There will be a senior event some time in August. Todd Lisk will coordinate with John Hensel for our Gabby's night event.

Jim Hughes and Kim Jacobs will be our guest speakers at the April meeting.

Carol Overfield gave a presentation on the possibility of hiring private security companies for security. The cost is less than half of what we pay Columbus Police Officers. We could get more than twice the number of hours for our budget. They will make a presentation at our May meeting.

George would like each board member to identify one place that needs help with beautification.

We adjourned at 8:50.

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Say Yes

It is high time you say YES to your community! Forest Park is one of those great communities hidden away from view. If we do not all step up and do our part it will no longer be so great. The Forest Park Civic Association has served us respectably for nearly 50 years. But frankly, far too many people have sat back and done nothing to help. We need everyone to say Yes!

Businesses in our area are closing because we don't support them. Empty store fronts in the area around us have a direct bearing on the value of our residential properties. I ask you to support our businesses.

Everyone has some talent to offer. We need people to help plant flowers, recruit folks to join, visit or call businesses, join us for our community outreach blitz, be a host for neighbor night out, join the block watch, be a planning member of the board, etc. There are dozens of things that can be done. There are some tasks that take a one time commitment and other tasks that call for an extended commitment.

If you are not doing something to help, you are part of the problem. This is my personal opinion. We must always be growing and getting better. Everyone must be willing to work at improving our community. Anything worthwhile takes an effort. You must capture the vision and care. We all need to collectively get up and get going. It is high time we awake this sleeping giant we call Forest Park. Community life will have more satisfaction, and no small amount of earned pride for us all.

Perhaps you are relatively new to Forest Park and no one has explained what it means to have a strong civic association. **It is the survival of the quality of our community's life. It is pushing back those forces that would make our community decline over time.** It is caring about each other.

We have a strong foundation built on the great efforts of many. The greatness will continue only as each us finds reasons to make a positive impact rather than hoping 'the other guy' will do it.

All of us must put aside those reasons why we have not been involved or have not paid our little \$25.00/year dues, and go on to get the job done. It takes everyone. We can really no longer sit on the sidelines and hope others will do it for us. We have way too many spectators and not near enough players. You need to say Yes!

Here are some opportunities:

Saturday April 10, 9am –noon clean up on 161. Meet behind the Jiffy Lube

Volunteer to take care of one of the landscape boxes on 161.

Join us for our 1-day, 4 hour community outreach on July 10

Host a street cook out on August 3 as part of Neighbors Night Out

Join the Y Service Club and get involved helping families and the neighborhood

Make phone calls on behalf of the Board, or Stuff Envelopes with us

Use whatever talent you have and start doing whatever you think needs to be done

Be the Forest Park representative to the NCC development committee

Help with the Independence Day Parade. It's fun!

Pick up trash when you see it, and help your neighbor any way you can

Give me a call or send me an email if you want more information on any of these or if you just want to tell me what you are doing. Thanks.

George Schmidt 895-7459 georgeschmidt@wowway.com

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| CECILIA EDOJA | 885-7999 | 18 | | | | XX | XX | | | EAST |
| MARAH MORRIS | 596-6880 | 16 | XX | | | XX | XX | | XX | EAST |
| GABRIELLE SUAREZ | 657-3843 | 17 | XX | XX | | XX | XX | | | EAST |
| BROOKE ENTINGH | 985-3396 | 13 | | | | XX | XX | XX | XX | EAST |
| KHARI CHINN | 315-9392 | 15 | XX | XX | | | | XX | XX | EAST |
| DARIUS OWENS | 825-4749 | 12 | XX | XX | | | | | XX | EAST |
| RASHAWN THOMPSON | 396-7636 | 15 | XX | | XX | | | | XX | EAST |
| CHANEL AYERS | 704-3034 | 15 | | | | XX | XX | | XX | EAST |
| CHRISTOPHER AYERS | 704-3034 | 11 | XX | | | | | | XX | EAST |
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| SHAQUILLE BROWN | 396-6283 | 16 | XX | XX | | | XX | | XX | EAST |
| TYLER RICHARDSON | 378-7310 | 14 | | | | XX | XX | | | EAST |
| NORRIS RICHARDSON | 378-7310 | 17 | XX | XX | | | | XX | XX | EAST |
| KARLA GARCIA | 781-9185 | 15 | | | | XX | XX | | | EAST |
| SOLOMON HAYES | 846-4156 | 11 | | XX | | | | | XX | WEST |
| JOSHUA HAYES | 846-4156 | 14 | XX | XX | XX | | | | | WEST |
| RICKIE CROUCH | 207-5816 | 14 | XX | XX | XX | | | XX | XX | WEST |
| JANAIR EVERETTE | 840-0163 | 16 | | XX | | | | XX | | WEST |

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE TEEN WORK LIST, CALL 885-1434

FOR-MEL WOMEN'S CLUB

FOR-MEL Woman's Club will meet Monday, April 5th at 7:30 pm at the home of member Sue Warren, Cedar Willow Dr. John Will, Story-teller will "Tell Us a Story" and meeting to follow. Any questions, call 885-0373



FOREST PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS
By Fran Compton

The Ohio Achievement Assessment (formally the Ohio Achievement Test, OAT) an annual critical success factor for students, teachers, and principals in the Columbus Public Schools, will be held April 19, 20, and 21. In preparation for this, Forest Park Elementary Principal Mrs. Rhonna McKibbin sent home considerable information to parents to help them understand what these tests cover and to offer tips to parents to help prepare their children. The information covers the skills and critical thinking needed to succeed as well as how to write an effective written response to questions.

Teachers in the third, fourth, and fifth grades use practice tests to enable the students to understand the format of these tests. Due to decreased state funding, the fourth grade writing and the fifth grade social studies tests have been suspended by the state. Reading and math are still included for grades 3-5 with fifth graders also taking a science test.

The principal urges parents to be sure the students have adequate rest before the test and attend school on test days.

The third grading period Awards Assembly will be April 1 (this is no April Fools joke!) at 9:15 am for kindergarten through second grade and 10:00 am for grades 3-5. Spring break will begin the same day with 1/2 hour early dismissal. School will resume April 12.



Join us for a
**NORTHLAND COMMUNITY
 CLEANUP DAY**
 on **SR-161**

Meet at the
 Sharon Woods Center

behind Jiffy Lube, 1800 East Dublin Granville Rd (at Sharon Woods Boulevard) on

Saturday, April 10, 2010
9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Help us remove trash and debris from the shoulders and culverts of SR-161 to improve its appearance and to prevent these materials from being shredded during mowing activities on the corridor this summer.

Bags, gloves, safety vests and pick-up tools will be provided.
 Please wear brightly colored clothing and sturdy, waterproof footwear for safety!

Businesses on SR-161 are invited to partner with us on this project!

For more information or to RSVP, please contact NABA SR-161 Task Force Chair Dave Cooper at (614) 888-2201 or email cleanupday@myncc.org.



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Remember, 20% of your purchase goes to the Forest Park Civic Association. Not only that, but if you think about it, in a small way you are helping the local economy! By patronizing your local establishment, you're helping to keep them in business, which means they need people working for them.

Just imagine if half of our residents visited Max and Erma's for lunch, dinner or carryout. A healthy fundraising for the Civic Association and no dishes to wash! Look for the coupons in the upcoming editions of the Forester.



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FOREST PARK SPRING COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Spring house cleaning time is here again! Your junk can be someone's treasure. Have fun and make a little money by entering the Forest Park Civic Association Garage Sale which will be held on Saturday, May 15 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Advertisements will appear in local newspapers. Maps and listings of addresses of participants will be handed out to prospective buyers at the West and East Island entrances to Forest Park on Karl Road from 8:45 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. on the day of the sale.

The Association charges a minimal fee of \$5.00 to participate in this gigantic community sale. You receive quite a bargain when one considers the advertisement drawing card to all the Northland communities, fun with your neighbors, and some extra cash in your pocket. The fee helps defray the cost of the advertising.

Please complete the following form and mail with your check of \$5.00 made payable to F.P.C.A. by May 8 to Carol Overfield, 1969 Torchwood Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43229.

If you have any questions, please call Carol at 846-3389

GARAGE SALE ENTRY FORM

Name _____ Address _____

Featured Items:

SPACE IS LIMITED, LIST MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS

So Long Winter, Here Comes Spring, YEAH!

Time to start planning those flower and vegetable gardens, get the yard tools all cleaned up, sharpen the blade on the lawn mower, and spend more time outside. The birds are singing, the trees are getting ready to wake up and bloom, and the grass will be long before we know it.

February was a long, cold, snowy month, and if you and your neighbors have not seen much of each other, with the days growing longer, we should be able to get out and catch up.

Just remember that when you are out working in the yard, make sure you have secured your doors **to the house (especially when working in the backyard)**. You sure don't want to walk into your home to find an uninvited visitor clearing out your prized possessions.

Turn your porch lights on when it gets dark and light up the night. Those bad guys don't work well when things are all lit up. Watch out for your neighbors and if you see something suspicious, or just not right, don't hesitate to call the police.

Stay alert, stay safe, and have a great spring.

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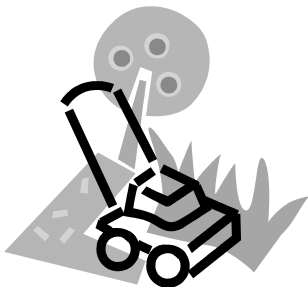
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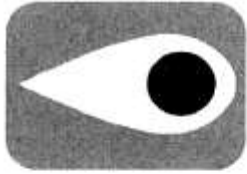
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The **FOREST PARK** **BLOCK WATCH**



Since 2005, the Forest Park community has had an active community Block Watch, composed of residents working with each other, the Columbus Division of Police and the FPCA's Supplemental Security officers to help keep our homes and residents safe. With almost 3000 single-family households in Forest Park East and West, we need your help to keep our Block Watch organization growing and serving our community.

What is a Block Watch?

- ✓ **A Mindset** ... **Being prepared** to look out for the safety and security of your neighbors and your community as well as yourself and your family.
- ✓ **A Resource** ... **Information and ideas** you can use to keep yourself, your family, your home and your community safe.
- ✓ **A Network** ... **A means to share information** quickly and easily with your neighbors and with local law enforcement to help **detect** criminal activity, **identify** criminals and **prevent** crime.
- ✓ **An Image** ... **Making criminals and others aware** that our community pays attention to and cares about crime, and is prepared to do what it takes to prevent it.

What does it cost?

The only cost is your time and interest – there is no expense or membership fee to be part of the Block Watch. In terms of time, your commitment can be as little as an hour to 90 minutes each month to attend a Block Watch meeting, or as much time as you can offer to help manage, organize and share information with our neighbors about the Block Watch.

How can I get involved?

- ✓ **Email** Send an email including your name and street address to blockwatch@fpcivic.org to be included in our Block Watch email alerts and meeting reminders and added to our membership list.
- ✓ **Meet** Our Block Watch meets monthly on the **fourth Tuesday** of each month. Meetings often include our Community Liaison Officers and/or other law enforcement representatives to present on topics related to crime and safety and to learn about community members' concerns. You need not attend every meeting, though we encourage you or another member of your family to join us often to remain current on local crime issues and crimefighting ideas.
- ✓ **Join** The **Forest Park Block Watch Forum** is online any time, 24 hours a day at www.fpcivic.org/bwforum for resources, ideas and information about crime and crime prevention in our community.
- ✓ **Call** **For more information**, contact Dave Paul, Forest Park Block Watch coordinator, at (614) 325-8217 or Columbus Division of Police 18th precinct Community Liaison Officer Scott Clinger at (614) 645-1418.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers for the Welcoming Committee. If you want to meet new residents, help with handouts, and be part of a group, please call George Schmidt at 895-7459.

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There are over 3500 copies of the Forester distributed to residents of Forest Park East and West, and a few streets on the outer edges of Forest Park.

Dispatch Consumer Services delivers the Forester on the first Sunday of each month.

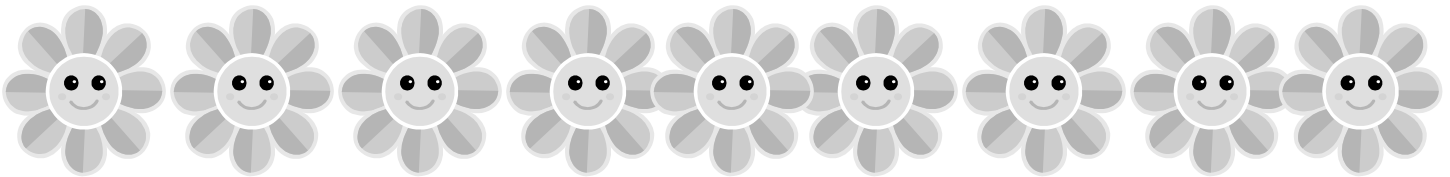
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|---------------|-----------------|--------|
| Full Page | | 125.00 |
| Half Page | 7 1/2" w x 5" h | 65.00 |
| Fourth Page | 3 5/8" x 5" | 45.00 |
| Business Card | 2 1/2" x 3 1/2" | 25.00 |

Only black and white original photographs should be submitted. We cannot guarantee the quality of a color photograph.

For further information on The Forester, please call Susan Buttermore at 885-1434 or email to:

forester_ads@fpcivic.org



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Senior Discount

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Realtors
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Columbus, OH 43214

Shawn M. Hageman

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NEIGHBORHOOD

Update!



APRIL, 2010



HAPPY EASTER!



MARY SGUERRA

CBR \$25 MILLION CLUB

FOREST PARK RESIDENT

818-7636

Dear Neighbors:

Spring is here and the real estate market is becoming more active. I have a new listing at **5101 Treeridge St.** and closed on my listing at **1801 White Pine Ct.** Interest rates are still holding low at **5%** for a **30 yr** loan or **4.25%** for a **15 yr** loan.

Now is a great time to put your house on the market and start looking for another home whether it be a **NEW BUILD** or an **EXISTING HOME** or **CONDOMINIUM**. I can represent you as a **Buyers Agent**, (representing your interest) with any cooperating builder or seller at no expense to you. Give me a call for details.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE TAX CREDIT FOR FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS - \$8000

AND FOR REPEAT HOMEBUYERS - \$6500 -- You need to be in contract by April 30, 2010.

Please give me a call if you're thinking of buying or selling this year and let me show you what Real Living HER and I can do for you.

NEW LISTING

5101 Treeridge St.-----Wow! Nice one owner 2 story home with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, family room with WBFP, 1st floor laundry, lg. deck overlooking backyard & 2 car attached garage. **Asking \$129,900**

CURRENT MARKET WATCH

The following homes are **For Sale with Real Living HER:**

| | | Asking: | | | Asking: |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| 5097 Karl Rd. | Ranch/3BR | 109,900 | 5329 Avalon Ave | 2-Sty/4BR | 124,900 |
| 5430 Hazelwood Rd. | Ranch/3BR | 112,000 | 5237 Arrowood Lp W | Ranch/3BR | 126,700 |
| 5352 Torchwood LpW | Split/3BR | 119,500 | 1703 Sugarmaple Dr. | 2-Sty/4BR | 129,900 |
| 5270 Blue Ash Rd. | Split/3BR | 119,900 | 5101 Treeridge St | 2-Sty/4BR | 129,900 |
| 5540 Sandalwood Blvd | Ranch/3BR | 119,900 | 5086 Riverbirch Dr. | 2-Sty/4BR | 174,400 |
| 1968 Northcliff Dr E | Ranch/3BR | 124,900 | | | |



Real Living HER homes In Contract

5316 Poplarwood Rd.© Ranch/3BR 124,900
(C)=In Contract Contingent (E)=I/C w/Escape clause

All Homes SOLD

| | | Asking: | Sold Price: |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|-------------|
| 5496 Hazelwood Rd. | Split/3BR | 116,730 | 113,730 |
| 1801 White Pine Ct.© | Split/4BR | 149,900 | 148,900 |

Information obtained from the Columbus Board of Realtors - MLS as of 3/11/10. If your property is currently listed For Sale with another realtor please disregard this offer.



**I KNOW FOREST PARK!
I LIVE IN FOREST PARK!
I SELL FOREST PARK!**