



The Forester



Volume 48 Issue 10

Forest Park Civic Association

October 2012

"A Sleeping Giant Community"

Hello friends,

Sometimes, crazy things can bring a community closer together. At our September board meeting, most of the 140 seats were filled and residents had an opportunity to express how they felt about the new changes to the Tamarack Circle traffic pattern.

FPCA has been in communication with city leaders since the new markings were laid the last week of July. Our persistence was helpful because we were able to secure accomplished individuals whom had the greatest impact in the project. Rick Tilton (Assistant Director of the Columbus Department of Public Service), Randy Bowman (Division of Mobility Options), Nick Popa (Bikeways And Community Mobility Manager), Brian Hagerty (Project Manager for the Stantec consulting firm) not only accepted the invitation to come, but had a teleconference in advance to understand the most essential points of contention with the changes. Such points included the lack of advance communication, no solicitation of community input, the loss of the traffic lane, issues involving the entrance and exit of the circle.

Immediately into their presentation, Mr. Tilton apologized to the community for not seeking its involvement prior to the re-striping. In short, he explained that in past projects, he found that consultation was needed when people were losing parking spaces, but not when being added, as it is the case on Tamarack Circle. He said that they are learning, and growing, in their work to fulfill the mayor's plan to make Columbus more bike friendly.

Mr. Popa and Mr. Hagerty presented a PowerPoint overview which detailed the existing structure, the traffic study, and some of the reasoning behind the decision making process.

Afterward, the presenters invited questions and comments. Most of the residential feedback surrounded everyone's safety, particularly when cars exit the circle. Many individuals made personal testimony to that point. Others inquired if various changes could be made to the existing pattern. Dave Paul later mentioned that the men were taking extensive notes from the questions and comments.

Mr. Tilton said that there would not be any immediate changes to the circle, but would monitor the situation and could tweak the existing pattern. He was pressed by residents for specific changes that might be considered, and specifics on how the circle would be monitored.

Short Term Impact

While it has not changed the circle itself, there have been some positive results from our collective effort thus far. The city has acknowledged that they should have interacted with the community in advance of making such a dramatic change. They are now holding community meetings in areas where they plan to add new bike lanes. Examples include Karl Rd. between 161 and Schrock Rd., as well as Karl Rd. around Oakand Park. Moreover, they are listening to our concerns to the point that they took pages of notes during our September meeting. They seem willing to explore and install crosswalks along the circle (nothing official, just my impression. (continued on page 8)

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The deadline for the November Edition Forester is Thursday, October 18, with delivery to residents on Sunday, November 4.

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CONTRIBUTORS THIS MONTH ARE:

Susan Buttermore, George Schmidt, Mike Stone, Dan Hartzell, Matt Ward, and Joann Jeck

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FOREST PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 11, 2012 MINUTES

By Matthew Ward

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Stone at 7:00pm and started with the Pledge of Allegiance by all in attendance. Roll call followed by the Secretary and continued on to committee reports.

Dan Hartzell gave the Treasury report. The association received \$3455.14 in income coming from \$1600 from membership fees, \$1890 from Supplemental Security Split, \$25 from the Forester and \$380 in miscellaneous. Expenses for Supplemental Security Split and Forester were the majority of the expenses for the month of August. Net income was \$737.10 leaving the association \$2094.57 in the red.

At 7:10 President Mike Stone introduced the civic association to the residents in attendance, telling what the FPCA does and invitation to volunteer and come to meetings. A sign in sheet was passed around to help obtain email addresses to pass along information. Mike also spoke of what **tonight's meeting was about and how questions and concerns would be addressed.**

At 7:15 Mike introduced the Speakers from the City of Columbus who came to speak about the Sandalwood and Tamarack Circle paving project.

Randy Bowman, Administrator, Division of Mobility Options, Columbus Department of Public Service, spoke first about the biking project. He explained the bike project was part of Mayor Coleman's Bike Away Plan and how Columbus was behind other cities in becoming more "bike" friendly as another option of transportation and to become more fit. He continued to say the area was ID'd in 2008 for bike lanes to connect to the other bike paths that travel throughout the city. Mr. Bowman said that the "process of laying out a design is a learning process especially with consulting the public. Studies were done on traffic patterns now and in the future and it showed that two lanes were not needed around the circle. However, in order to use the whole road and not extend the existing curb they decided on a one driving lane with a bike lane, buffer and parking. As he said the design of the bike paths in the city was a learning process they made a mistake with not consulting and letting the public know about the changes and discuss what they would like to see more clearly and will do better in the future. The next project could be on Karl Road between Oakland Park and Morse Road.

Nick Popa, Bikeways and Community Mobility Manager, Columbus Department of Public Services followed Mr. Bowman to talk about the implantation of the design. Mr. Popa presented a power point presentation to show the benefits of the city network and the Bicentennial Bike Plan. The plan is to give active choices and reduce the Car-Only Focus of transportation for the City of Columbus. He gave the examples of how engineering of 60 miles of trails, with bike parking, signs and sharrows, Enforcement with bike safety and code enforcement. Also he spoke of education of the trails with maps.

Brian Hagerty, Professional Engineer, Project Manager with Stantec spoke last about the design aspects of the project. He started with showing the prior conditions of Sandalwood and Tamarack Circle with their studies showing low traffic volume and speeding concerns. The goals of the project were to provide the right facility of bike paths, better control speeds, improve intersection security and minimize the parking impact. Mr. Hagerty showed an overhead view of the intersection showing the new conditions with bike lanes on the right of the traffic lane which is where 90% of bike paths in the country are located.

(continued on page 4)

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JUSTIN HILL	436-0178	15	XX	XX	XX				XX	EAST
SOLOMON HAYES	846-4156	13		XX					XX	WEST
JOSHUA HAYES	846-4156	16	XX	XX	XX					WEST
JANAIR EVERETTE	840-0163	16		XX				XX		WEST
DOMINIQUE TYSON	316-9082	15	XX	XX	XX		XX		XX	EAST
TRENT RANSON	468-1332	15	XX	XX						WEST
JOSH WINKLER	891-6879	17	XX	XX	XX				XX	EAST
ALEX BARNETT	625-1228	16	XX		XX				XX	EAST
MORGAN SAUNDERS	625-1228	14	XX							EAST
JOSEPH HANSEN	396-6336	13	XX	XX				XX	XX	WEST
REBECCA CRADDOCK	394-7721	16				XX	XX		XX	EAST
CADE CARY	975-9688	15	XX	XX	XX				XX	EAST
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(continued from page 3)

He continued to say that switching the traffic pattern from two lanes to one control speeds and was able to do this with keeping the Sandalwood and Karl Road intersection the same as before.

At 7:40 Mike Stone opened a question/answer session with the residents and the engineers. Numerous residents were able to ask questions and express their concern about the project. Most questions were about the concern of safety for bicyclist and drivers alike; saying that making right hand turns crossing over bike paths would be hard to see the riders. Also, the number of drivers who continue to drive in the parking lane making the likelihood of that causing an accident was a concern. The engineers said they were continuing to monitor the driving habits and have plans that they can implant to stop or train people to only drive in the one lane of traffic. Examples were the quick curb post and additional markings on the road. Another question was in regards to the study and when they looked at the volume of cars traveling through the area especially during peak times. The residents said the one lane around the circle causes a 10-12 car back up along the side roads, worse than before during rush hour and after schools let out. In regard to this the engineer team said they would continue to monitor. Safety was also a concern for students who cross into the circle after school lets out and the lack of cross walks at the intersections. With these concerns being expressed the team took notes to possibly add those in. A general consensus among the attendants was to remove the parking and while the engineer team said changing the circle back to the way it was, was not going to happen changes could be made. Even though the team could not say how long they would monitor before if or when changes would be made the promised to keep at it. Mr. Bowman and Mr. Hagerty took pages of notes during the question period to take the concerns back to their office to review.

At 8:15 the speakers were dismissed with President Mike Stone continuing to take questions from those residents who stayed. Mike asks residents to send concerns to a newly developed email address (circle@fpcivic.org) and they will forward to the city and pass along responses given. He said he wanted to develop a civic response as to what we would like to see done and to discuss if the association would do a petition and keep the lines of communication to the city open until settled. A member of the Columbus Advisory Bike Committee was in attendance and she recommended not having the bike paths, in favor of using the sharrows that shows drivers the road is shared with bike riders. In a vote with the residents the said what they would make most happy with would be a two lane drive around the circle with one lane being a sharrows lane.

At 8:55 the question and answer period with Mike ended and the meeting was adjourned.



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Forest Park 50th Anniversary Photo Gallery Celebration

I am still looking for people who were the first to live in their homes in Forest Park to interview. I am still looking for photos of past presidents and land marks. What is your Forest Park story?

Our 50th committee met on October 3, at 7pm at Donatos on the Circle. We will be planning our last celebrative event. The art gallery will be sometime in the first two weeks of November. Stay tuned! We will have a display of 20-25 frame photos, photo albums and our video. We will certainly have food. The committee will decide the when and where and what on the 3rd. Send me stuff at georgeschmidt@wowway.com or call me at 895-7459.

Thank God for Labor

My father was a plumber. My mother was a homemaker. Many of my uncles and cousins and brother were plumbers, mill workers, electrician and laborers. My mother worked cooking for meals on wheels from age 65 to 68. I am proud of them all. I get a little more disappointed in Labor Day each year. I will tell you why.

As I watched the political conventions I noticed something quite prevalent at both. Many, many people told how their parents worked on farms, in the coal mine, as laborers, child care providers, janitors, etc. They made it sound as though the only good that their parents did was send them to college or make it possible for them to be a senator, congressman, etc. Did it sound that way to you?

I listened to a few Labor Day speeches and heard the same thing. My mother worked in a factory so I could go to college and become something. My father dug ditches so that I could run a business. I propose that all these people had accomplishments in their own right. The folks who worked with their hands and made their way by the sweat of their brow had a calling to a vocation the same as any Phi Beta Kappa with six doctoral degrees. For the most part they did something as opposed to thinking something. They produced houses to live in, food to eat, cars to drive, dinner to eat, clean clothes to wear.

My mother with her eight children could have quoted the famous philosopher, Roseanne Barr, "If at the end of the day all the kids are still alive, I have done my job." There are hundreds of people better off because of what my mother did. She can proud of what she accomplished even if all eight of us did nothing.

My father was a great plumber. He did plumbing far better than I did college. When I visit my church at home I see his handy work everywhere. When I travel down town Pittsburgh and look at the Alcoa Building, I am proud for him. One building owner built a glass wall in front of my Dad's plumbing work because it looked like a "work of art."

We judge people this day primarily on how much money they make, don't we? We look at how many toys they have. We look at the house and car. And we judge by the level of education. I just heard it today on the news and read a similar article in the Dispatch. One principal said that it is her goal that every child goes to college. I mean to tell you there are a lot of people in college who do not belong there. I know people who are very successful who never went to college and some fell like failures because society has us believing anyone who is worthwhile went to college. If I only listened to the speeches at the convention I would conclude that only thing worthwhile that parents did was to make them successful and successful means I do have to do what my parents did.

Where would the world be without people who produce things or clean things? The next time you see someone cleaning the rest room do not judge them as being unaccomplished, just thank them and thank God that you get to go into a clean restroom. I am proud of my parents for what they did in their labors. When I leave this life I hope I can say I served as many people and was as accomplished. Labor Day should be more than just another day off.

George Schmidt

Beware of Your Purchases

I purchased an edger at Menards. It is a great store and I will continue to purchase things there, just not equipment or anything that might need repaired. Allow me to make you aware of a glitch.

Menards has no mechanics on staff, at least none that can help with engine problems. When I pulled my new edger out of the box and put my edger together, put gas/oil in it and tried to start it, it would not. I took it back to Menards. They pointed out to me that on my receipt it states that once there is gas in it they will not take it back. It is an obvious catch 22. How do you know whether or not it will work under you put fuel into it?

They have no one at the store that can look at it. The solution was to drive 37 miles to Pataskala to the authorized dealer and 37 miles back. They charged me \$8.00 to look at and tell me I need to use high octane gas. The manufacturer's recommended regular gas will not work, they told me.

I may have saved money in the purchase. That savings was long gone by the time I got the edger edging. Just beware of the policy when purchasing anything with a motor. Read the receipt about returns. If the authorized mechanic would not have been able to start it, I may have been out my entire amount. Think about purchasing such things as lawn mowers at a place that has a mechanic. Just beware!

George Schmidt

(continued from page 1)

What Now?

The most common message I receive from Forest Park residents is this: While bike paths are welcome, the current traffic pattern is not. Many, if not a majority of people, feel unsafe with the new road configuration and would like to see some type of adjustment. The Civic Association will ultimately take a position which should represent that view. At the time of this letter, board members are having dialogue for exactly what should be advocated. Creating an attainable objective which represents most residents, while respecting minority viewpoints, takes some doing. But once that has been accomplished, we will communicate that to the city and ask for residential support in a variety of ways. We WONT just move on.

At the September meeting, the most common call was to return to two lanes, with the outside lane being a sharrow (a lane shared by bikes and cars). Another common idea was a return to two lanes with a bike lane on the outer edge.

This is What You Can Do

Tuesday, October 9, is our next general meeting. We hope that you can attend that night (7:00 P.M. Epworth United Methodist Church) for further discussion, and possible plans for action.

If you have not done so already, please email me at msto0103@yahoo.com to get on our news list because we will send out updates when we get them.

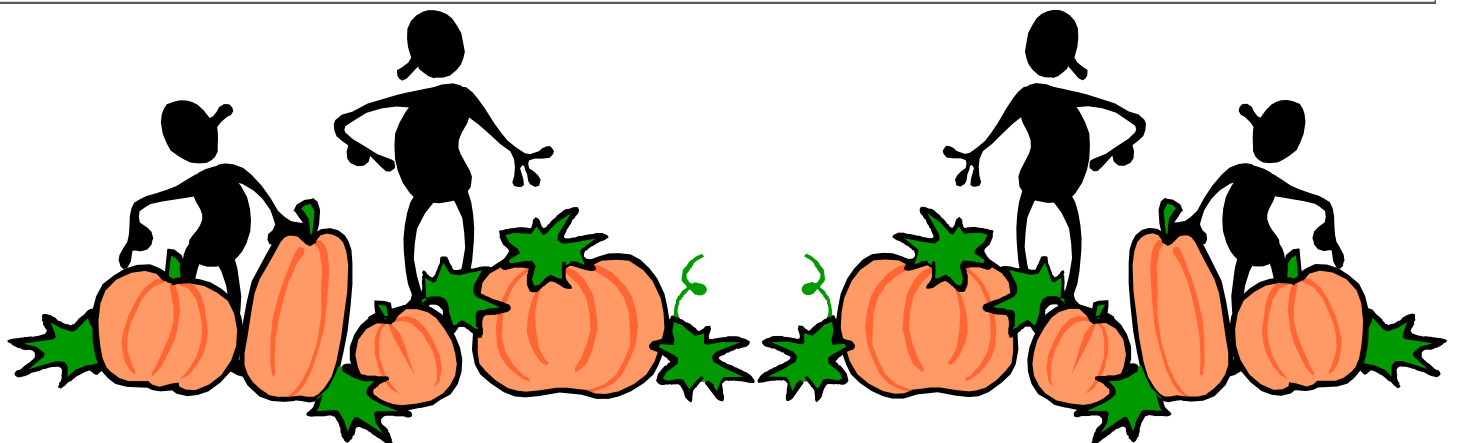
If you have a story, or an experience specifically related to the Tamarack Circle traffic change, send it to our newly created web address at circle@fpcvivic.org

If you choose to express your concern to the city, please choose your words with care. Remember, we're hoping for an improved situation on Tamarack. Turning off the people who might be able to help us won't get us anywhere.

It remains to be seen what can or will be accomplished, but please know that your civic volunteers are taking time to make it a possibility. Thanks for the support. You remind us what a great community we all truly have.

Mike Stone

Forest Park Civic Association President



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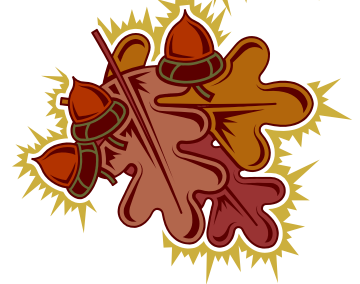
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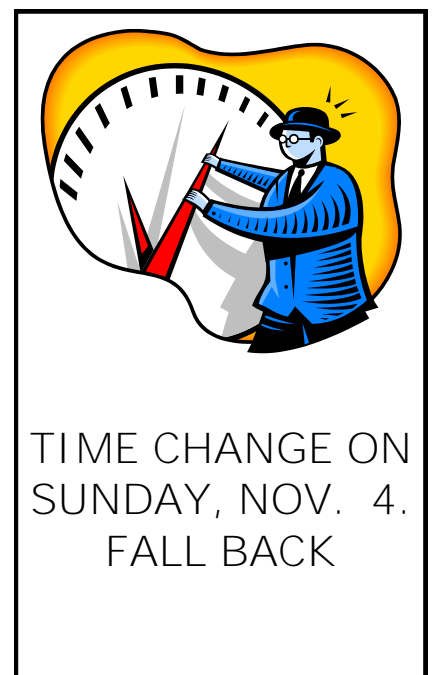
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FOR-MEL WOMEN'S CLUB

By Joann Jeck

The For-Mel Women's Club met on Monday, October 1 at the home of Rose Moody, hostess. The program was presented by the "Maple Grove Players". They provided short skits, making us laugh.

Co-hostess was Sue Warren and JoAnn Jeck gave devotions.

BLOCKWATCH

By Ken Gilbert

The Forest Park Block Watch holds their meetings on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7 pmat Epworth Methodist Church, 5100 Karl Rd. All Forest Park residents are welcome and encouraged to attend. You can find more information on our web site: <http://blockwatch.fpcivic.org/>. Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 23: Lt. Gary Lewis Ohio Highway Patrol/Homeland Security will be speaking. Upcoming meetings are as follows. The November meeting with be brief, due to the upcoming holiday, though we will discuss holiday safety tips. There will be NO December meeting, as it would fall on Christmas. January: Director Pannell Franklin County EMA. February: Deputy Pollard Franklin County Sheriff's Office SALT (this will be great for Seniors!).



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August 2012 Treasurer's Report

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	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
Membership	\$ 1,160.00		\$ 5,344.00	\$ 1,549.27	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Business Membership			\$ 80.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -
Supplemental Security Split	\$ 1,890.00	\$ 1,225.00	\$ 8,976.00	\$ 8,856.75	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Interest	\$ 0.14		\$ 1.77	\$ 6.00	\$ 5.00	
Forester	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,468.04	\$ 7,172.00	\$ 13,579.68	\$ 13,295.00	\$ 17,000.00
Garage Sale			\$ 245.00	\$ 52.12	\$ 250.00	\$ 100.00
Additional donations			\$ 385.00	\$ -	\$ 1,550.00	
Island Maintenance & Improvement		\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ 2,349.09		\$ 500.00
Island Flowers			\$ -	\$ -		\$ 100.00
Liability Insurance/Bond			\$ -	\$ -		\$ 450.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 380.00		\$ 1,180.00	\$ 120.00		\$ 300.00
Northland Community Council			\$ -	\$ 430.00		\$ 300.00
Treasurer Expenses			\$ -	\$ 126.00		\$ 150.00
Beautification Awards			\$ 30.00	\$ 100.00		\$ 300.00
Outreach Day			\$ 270.00	\$ 741.10		\$ 400.00
July 4th Bikes/Parade Floats			\$ 200.00	\$ 199.94		\$ 200.00
Blockwatch			\$ -	\$ -		\$ 200.00
50th Anniversary			\$ 5,770.00	\$ 3,638.39	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,400.00
Area Development/Pride			\$ -	\$ -		\$ 400.00
Total Income & Expenses	\$ 3,455.14	\$ 2,718.04	\$ 29,653.77	\$ 31,748.34	\$ 36,800.00	\$ 36,800.00
Net Income (Loss)		\$ 737.10		\$ (2,094.57)		
Bank Balance at end of month		\$ 17,176.69				

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FORESTER ADVERTISING

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.

Advertising rates for each issue for camera ready advertisements:

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

BUSINESS MEMBERS for 2011-2012

- ◆ DONATO'S ON TAMARACK CIRCLE
- ◆ SCHMITT TREE SERVICE (ad on page 5)
- ◆ DAIRY QUEEN ON TAMARACK CIRCLE
- ◆ CS BANK corner of 161 and Karl Rd.
- ◆ SCHOEDINGER FUNERAL SERVICES on Karl Rd.
- ◆ COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN LIBRARY on Karl Rd.
- ◆ MARY SGUERRA HER REAL LIVING (see back)
- ◆ KARL RD. CHRISTIAN CHURCH
- ◆ HADLER COMPANIES (Columbus Square)
- ◆ HUGHES ROOFING & REMODELING (ad on page 19)
- ◆ OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE on Bethel Rd.
- ◆ FLOWERAMA at Karl and Morse
- ◆ ROOSTERS FUN CASUAL JOINT on 161
- ◆ GABBY'S on Tamarack Circle
- ◆ CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH on Cleveland Ave.
- ◆ KREIGER FORD on Morse Rd.
- ◆ MT. CARMEL HEALTH SYSTEMS
- ◆ DRELYSE RESTAURANT (Tamarack Circle)
- ◆ CIRCLE MART
- ◆ CIRCLE DRIVE THRU
- ◆ OAKLEAF VILLAGE



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NEIGHBORHOOD

Update!



October, 2012

MARY SGUERRA

CBR \$25 MILLION CLUB

FOREST PARK RESIDENT

818-7636



Dear Neighbors:

The real estate market is still busy and rates are still **LOW!** Now is a great time to buy or sell a house or condominium. I closed on my listings at **5046 ILO Dr.** and **1307 Fahlander Dr N** and I put In-Contract my listings at **5487 Larkwood**, **1836 Cedar Willow**, **5161 Maplewood Ct W.** and **5499 Pine Bluff**. If you are thinking of buying or selling please give me a call and let me show you what HER and I can do for you.

NEW LISTING

1736 Ivyhill Lp. N. ---- Ranch w/3 BR's, 2 BA's, Family Rm. w/WBFP, patio & fenced yard, 2 car garage. **\$114,900**

CURRENT MARKET WATCH

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

		Asking:			Asking:
5261 Karl Rd.	Ranch/5BR	99,900	5517 Durrell Rd.	2-Sty/4BR	119,900
5160 Paw Paw Rd	Split/3BR	109,900	1659 Norma Rd.	Split/3BR	119,900
1989 Torchwood Dr.	Split/3BR	114,000	1695 Rocky Pine Lp N	Ranch/3BR	123,000
1823 Walden Dr.	Split/3BR	114,900 **	1865 Torchwood Dr	2-Sty/4BR	129,900
1736 Ivyhill Lp N	Ranch/3BR	114,900 *	5466 Driftwood Rd.	Ranch/3BR	130,000
1362 Boxwood Dr.	Ranch/3BR	116,900	5100 Riverbirch Dr N	2-Sty/4BR	148,900
5087 Tamarack Blvd.	2-Sty/4BR	118,000	* New Listings	**New Price	

Real Living HER homes In Contract

5487 Larkwood Rd.	2-Sty/4BR	79,900	5561 Durrell Rd.	Split/3BR	112,800
1307 Boxwood Dr.	Ranch/3BR	94,900	5161 Maplewood Ct W	Ranch/3BR	117,900
1836 Cedar Willow Dr.	Split/3BR	109,900	5499 Pine Bluff Rd.	2-Sty/4BR	124,900

(C)=In Contract Contingent (E)=I/C w/Escapes clause

All Homes SOLD

Since 8/16/12

		Asking:	Sold Price:
2058 Northcliff Dr.	Ranch/3BR	45,900	51,150
5439 Pine Bluff Rd.	2Sty/4BR	62,900	60,000
2018 Northtowne Ct	Split/3BR	60,000	66,100
5394 Pine Bluff Rd.	2-Sty/4BR	104,900	80,000
1378 Gumwood Dr.	Split/3BR	109,995	95,500
1730 Pin Oak Dr.	Split/3BR	109,900	108,000
1954 Torchwood Dr	2Sty/4BR	110,000	108,000
1667 Penworth Dr.	Ranch/3BR	109,900	110,000
5046 ILO Dr.	2-Sty/4BR	114,900	112,500
5195 Paw Paw Rd	2-Sty/4BR	119,900	112,500
5371 Blue Ash Rd	Ranch/3BR	120,000	115,000
5508 Durrell Rd	2Sty/4BR	119,900	118,000
1307 Fahlander Dr. N.	Split/3BR	124,900	118,400
5345 Poplarwood Rd	2Sty/4BR	121,000	118,000
5155 Riverbirch	2Sty/5BR	134,900	125,000

Information obtained from the Columbus Board of Realtors - MLS as of 9/22/12. 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!**