



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Forest Hill

carved from the John D. Rockefeller summer estate
"a good place to live and grow"



September 2023

2419 Lee Boulevard • Cleveland Heights, OH 44118-1206 • www.fhho.org

Hello Neighbors!

August this year sure was a stormy one! It has been surprising to see all the damage throughout our neighborhood. Despite the storms I have still witnessed neighbors come together, speak with each other and work alongside one another. Building something good takes time, rebuilding can be just as worth it though. These houses, roads, and trees have been here longer than most of us. I hope that long after we leave these beautiful things remain.

This year...especially this month, I have spent so much time thinking about what being a neighbor means. I once hear someone ask: "won't you be my neighbor?" That is a special question, first it recognizes a shared space and then it goes further with an invitation for a deeper connection. When the microburst ripped through and took so many branches down in late August one house could be unscathed while a couple doors down would have their century oak uprooted. Sometimes terrible things happen without explanation. Working together with those close to you to repair damage can sometimes make the world of difference.

Since I moved to Forest Hill I have got to know a few of my neighbors, and more when I joined FHHO. I am told that we encompass about 1,000 households here, but I haven't scratched the surface of meeting all the people and families in our neighborhood.

The volunteers at FHHO meet monthly to talk about things: important things, trivial things, good and bad things. We meet monthly bringing together our own quirks, strengths, weaknesses, and passion for our neighborhood. We are East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights – neighbors even by initial planning.

I want to thank you for simply being here to be part of this beautiful community. I would like to ask that you think about getting involved in any of the positive groups alive here, through FHHO or other organizations. If you think that you would like to bring your talents and voice to FHHO specifically, please feel free to reach out, get in contact with someone from our group. We have so much going on that would benefit from your involvement.

I'll leave my welcome with one last question. **Won't you be my neighbor?**

Aaron Haynes
President - FHHO

"Save The Blue Cottage" Fund Donors



There is a blue cottage at the corner of Lee and Monticello. This cottage has such an interesting story from its years, and is actually a part of our community that we want to share with everyone in Forest Hill. In this chapter of it's life it is a place in need. Like many structures from the early 20th century, it needs some love and long overdue maintenance. It also needs a purpose – a reason to be loved. We are focusing this year and next on how this building can help bring our community together. We want to thank every Forest Hill resident who has already taken and interest in this cottage and encourage more people to learn about it. Ask questions about it. Dream big things for it!

\$1,000 - \$2,000

Gretchen Mettler
Gary and Beryl Tishkoff

\$500 - \$999

Ardmore Tree Service
William Barrow
Tom and Terri Collura
Mollie and Dick Secor
Rev. Wesley and Arvell Toles

\$101 - \$499

Jayati Basu
Janet Briggs
Mozell Greer
Tracey Kirksey
Kitty McWilliams
Fran Mentch
Trisha Namy
Tony and Angela Rupic
Sandra and Bill Welches

Up to \$100

Andrew and Winnifred Albert
Rev. James Bannerman
James Bell
Delmus and Kathryn Deskins
Ann Donkin
Andrea Russo and Lester Edge
Mark Finkenbine

Charlotte Horton
John and Susan Kenney
Susan Majka
Terese McLeod
Joseph Meisser
Lynn Mentch
Melinda Mettler
Richard and Joanne O'Donnell
Timothy O'Donnell
Patricia and Luis Ortez
Dorothy Pace
Tom and Elaine Perample
Robert Perry
Emil Poporad
Patricia and Ron Ramsey
David and Sharon Richardson
Patricia Rolf
Jim Harmon and Don Schmitt
Heather Seiler
Allan and Henrietta Silberger
Thelma Smith
Robert and Maria Tayek
Sandra Truett
John and Leandro Walls
Dyeatra Williams
and Micah Parker
Simira Wilson
Mary Yee

Please excuse any name typos or omissions due to printing deadlines.

Forest Hill Historical Trivia...Did You Know?

...that in 1913 John D. Rockefeller's wife Laura became ill while spending their summer in Forest Hill and were unable to travel back to their New York home. The County Auditor seized on their misfortune and tried to sneak in a massive increase in property taxes claiming they were now full-time residents. Rockefeller was incensed at the bill and won in court. After his wife passed in 1915 he never returned to Forest Hill and excluded Cleveland from any further philanthropic giving.

...that in 1937 Abeyton Realty, who's office was in The Blue Cottage, put 200 of the 650 planned housing lots in the original Rockefeller subdivision plan on the market making this offering the first large-scale building project in Forest Hill since the original 81 Rockefeller homes were built in the late 1920s.

...that, also in 1937, General Electric outfitted the home at 3081 Chelsea with all electric appliances making it the first totally electric home in America.

UPCOMING FOREST HILL FALL EVENTS

CRAFTERS GROUP GATHERING

Saturday, September 23, 9 am - Noon
The Blue Cottage
Curt Hancock and Mike Horwath invite crafters of all kinds to a casual get-together for "show and tell" of finished projects and a chance to meet other crafty neighbors and learn more about getting started with your own projects.

BLUE COTTAGE OPEN HOUSE AND COMMUNITY SALE

Saturday, October 7, 9 am - 4 pm
The Blue Cottage
FHHO will host a day of fun at The Blue Cottage! Donate items to the community sale, stop by to find a treasure or two for purchase, come to hear updates on the "Save the Blue Cottage" Campaign, and more.
Interested in donating items for the sale? Find details on our website: www.fhho.org/events. Stay up to date on this upcoming event by following FHHO on Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor. Hope to see you there!

FOREST HILL HOME OWNERS ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, November 15, 7 pm - 9 pm
Forest Hill Church - Presbyterian
In person and on-line ZOOM meeting to review FHHO current business, vote on new officers and discuss community issues. Open to all Forest Hill residents.

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS AT MCGREGOR

ASK OUR EXPERTS

Wednesday, October 4, 6 pm to 7:30 pm
McGregor Community Room
Learn about often-overlooked advance planning topics to give peace of mind to you and your loved ones.

East Cleveland - MetroParks Agreement Collapse

By now many of us have heard the news of the MetroParks pullout from the negotiated agreement to take over maintenance and repairs at Forest Hill Park's East Cleveland section. Several Forest Hill residents have been working for years to first, bring attention to the decline at the Park, and to bring both East Cleveland government and the MetroParks system together to develop a cooperation agreement to restore the park to its original glory.

Forest Hill residents are extremely disappointed that this deal, so close to finalization, was derailed by some petty discourse within East Cleveland government. We hope that there is some way to salvage a partnership with the MetroParks and hope, sooner rather than later, an agreement can be struck to preserve this local treasure for future generations.

Spring 2023 Forest Hill Monster Garage Sale Recap

Thank you to all who participated and shopped at our annual spring Forest Hill Monster Garage Sale on Saturday, May 20th. Over 25 locations throughout the neighborhood hosted sales. The wide selection of items attracted shoppers from throughout the area. It was a great way to show off the neighborhood and engage with neighbors and visitors. We appreciate all the participants who navigated setting up and shopping in the rain. In addition to the sales throughout the neighborhood, the Blue Cottage also hosted a fundraiser sale for the "Save the Blue Cottage" Campaign. Community members were able to donate items during their visit. All proceeds from the sale went towards the campaign to restore the Cottage. Thank you for all your support! We look forward to next spring's Monster Garage Sale and hope to have even more participants!

To receive updates when the time comes, enroll in the FHHO email list at: www.fhho.org/contact. If you're interested in helping plan next year's event or have ideas for how to make the event even more successful feel free to email: www.fhhogaragesale@gmail.com.

ASK OUR EXPERTS

Learn about often-overlooked advanced planning topics to give peace of mind to you and your loved ones.



Keynote Speaker
SHARONA HOFFMAN,
J.D., LL.M., S.J.D.

Author, "Aging with a Plan:
*How a Little Thought Today Can Vastly
Improve Your Tomorrow*" 2nd. ed.



ELIZABETH ENGLAND
Licensed Medicare Sales
Agent, KAZ Company



JASON HARRIS
Financial Advisor, Equitable
Advisors



LISA ALONGI
Family Services Advisor,
Schulte & Mahon-Murphy
Funeral Home

Wednesday, October 4
6:00 - 7:30 pm
McGregor Community Room

Doors open at 5:30 pm
A light snack and refreshments
will be provided

14900 Private Dr.
Cleveland, OH 44112

McGregor

Register
Here!



“Village in the Heights” Program Expands to Forest Hill

In a REAL NEIGHBORHOOD, Neighbors help each other! This is the goal of **Village in the Heights (VIH)** now available to residents in Forest Hill (Cleveland Heights).

VIH is a 5-year-old volunteer organization which helps people live in their own homes longer. Residents of Forest Hill may now join to give help or get help. If you need a ride to your doctor’s appointment or grocery store, it will be provided. If you need help moving furniture, replacing the smoke detector batteries or repair of a leaky faucet, you get it.



Each month, an educational lecture is given at a nearby library or other location. Each month, a Happy Hour is offered at Pizzaz in Fairmount Circle. Men can get together for breakfast and women can get together for lunch each month at Jack’s Deli. Other gatherings and trips to museums, parks, etc. are also offered. In July VIH hosted an annual picnic at Horseshoe Lake.

Networking is Important: Do you like to make calls? Would you like to get a call for friendship or encouragement? Would you like to see a smiling face now and then?

Volunteers are Needed: One does not need to be a member to provide volunteer services, such as: making wellness phone calls, assisting with grocery shopping, household organizing or other household assistance, making minor repairs, providing rides, or using your expertise somehow.

Use the Services: Rides for and assistance with grocery shopping, rides for medical appointments, moving furniture, computer assistance, setup assistance after surgery and many other helpful things.

The membership cost is \$200 a year for an individual, \$350 for a couple. Contact the Executive Director, Paul Sobel at 216-297-3179 or email at: info@villageintheheights.org. The website is: www.villageintheheights.org. This is not a healthcare service, but provides assistance for those continuing to live independently at home.

Forest Hill Neighborhood Who’s Who

Do you know Phil and Mary Hall on Rumson Road? They have been residents of Forest Hill since 1972 and are in their mid-eighties. One by one over the years their 4 adult children (with their grandkids) have all moved back to Forest Hill where they grew up and currently live on Blackmore, Forest Hills, Rumson and Westover...Just imagine having your kids and grandkids so close!

Phil retired from seeing patients at the Cleveland Clinic a few years ago, but still is actively involved as a teacher and mentor in the Lerner College of Medicine. After moving into Forest Hill they both began building tiny dollhouses complete with miniature furniture. Since being recognized by a national hobby organization during a convention in Cleveland several years ago their work has been featured in prominent magazines for miniaturists builders. Mary, along with former neighbor Barbara Engle have also had their gardens featured on the Forest Hill and Heights Heritage Garden Tours for years. And yes, Phil is the one known for often walking their three Labrador retrievers around Forest Hill. They have truly appreciated living here in Forest Hill with its close proximity to University Circle, Severance Hall and the Cleveland Clinic and are long-time supporters to FHHO.



RECENT FOREST HILL AREA HOME SALES ACTIVITY

Forest Hill continues to see steady activity on home transfers during 2023 with several long-time homeowners opting to downsize while others are still taking advantage of a robust estate market for existing homes across the country. Below is a summary of home transfers from March thru August. Those highlighted in “yellow” were purchased by an LLC for renovation and potential resale.

2023 Home Transfers April thru August

• 2528 Bolton	\$368,500
• 1374 Burlington	\$260,000
• 3171 Chelsea	\$262,000
• 3324 Chelsea	\$299,000
• 1385 Forest Hills	LLC
• 16096 Forest Hills	LLC
• 16225 Glynn	LLC
• 1056 Hereford	\$214,000
• 1203 Hereford	\$200,000
• 3241 Mayfield	Condo Sale
• 3249 Mayfield - U16	LLC
• 3257 Mayfield	Condo Sale
• 2024 Mount Vernon	\$265,000
• 2240 Newbury	\$182,000
• 2370 North Taylor	LLC
16248 Oakhill	\$223,100
• 3214 Rumson	\$317,000
• 3240 Rumson	\$236,000
• 3440 Rumson	\$280,000
• 1121 Rutherford	\$235,000
• 1452 Westover	\$440,000

You can check recent public access sales data on any Cuyahoga County residence by visiting:

www.CuyahogaCounty.us/MyPlace
or www.Realtor.com for “Recently Sold” or “For Sale” homes by zip code.

WE NEED YOUR HELP AT THE BLUE COTTAGE

FHHO is looking for volunteers help with the following projects at *The Blue Cottage*:

- trimming shrubs on the property
- repairing wiring for outside lighting
- donating used sturdy folding chairs
- donating used sturdy dining chairs

2023 OFFICERS

Aaron Haynes – Newbury
President

James Havach – Burlington
Senior Vice President

Druscilla Robertson – Newbury
Vice President - Membership and Outreach

Frances Mentch – Chelsea
Secretary

Anthony Rupic – Seaton
Treasurer and Standards

Sarah Fuller – Burlington
Marketing Chair

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jayatu Basu – Burlington

Coralcyce Carten – Chelsea

Lisa Henry – Forest Hills

Christopher Hubbert – Rumson

Tracey Kirksey – Brewster

Dr. Donna Kolb-Jones – Rumson

Dr. Mary Rice – Monticello

Bradley Toth – Chelsea



FHHO MISSION: Forest Hill Home Owners, Inc. is a 528 non-profit organization that provides advise, options and support to Forest Hill homeowners on how to protect the property values of all homes in Forest Hill. FHHO was established in 1950 as part of the agreement for donating the original summer estate of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. to the cities of Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland. FHHO is a 100% volunteer organization and is supported by annual voluntary contributions.

Please send in a donation today and make sure FHHO has your current e-mail so we can publish future issues of this newsletter electronically and reduce printing and mailing expenses.



FOREST HILL HOME OWNERS, INC.

2419 Lee Boulevard • Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
www.fhho.org

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A Warm Welcome to New Neighbors in Our Forest Hill Community



Let's send a big shout out to each of our 2023 new neighbors. These new neighbors have purchased homes in Forest Hill since January. Each new homeowner receives a Forest Hill Welcome Kit soon after move-in:

- Blackmore - Margaret Martines and Peggy Dene
- Bolton - James and Allison Reinarz
- Burlington - George Barnum
- Chelsea - David Chau
- Chelsea - Pamela Nelly and Daniel Boggs
- Glynn - Sean and Kim Ward
- Hereford - Mandy Zheng
- Mayfield - William Anderson
- Mayfield - Alona Kogos
- Mount Vernon - Edward Boyte and Joel Morales
- Newbury - Seals Karrington
- Oakhill - Devin Jurek
- Rumson - Sarah Hicks and Jose Andrade-Leitao
- Rumson - Kristen Ribadas
- Rumson - Sayli Milind Sant and Timothy Trachok
- Rutherford - Marche Marshall

IN MEMORIAM: These Forest Hill neighbors have recently passed in 2023

- Theodore Carten (survived by wife Coralcyce) - Chelsea resident since 1995
- Leonard Collins - Newbury resident since 1978
- David Rickards (survived by wife Jane) - Newbury resident since 1993
- Willie Tommie - Chelsea resident since 1985
- Woodrow Wilson (survived by wife Eleanora) - Rumson resident since 1979

Traffic Speed Monitors Have Come to Burlington and Newbury

There was a time in Forest Hill that everyone knew every car that would pass by. Then, some years ago, cars started using Newbury and Burlington as a “cut through” to Mayfield rather than traversing Lee. More recently the volume and speed of cars on these streets has been dangerous and annoying. Last summer,



residents of Burlington and Newbury responded to a program developed by the City of Cleveland Heights to “calm traffic.” Door to door, residents signed a petition to have their streets, Burlington and Newbury as part of this program. As August began this year, speed monitors were placed on both of these streets. The outcome of this study will be interesting. What steps will the City take to reduce the volume of traffic or the speed of vehicles? At least it is a step forward to control the unwanted and unsafe traffic.