



Forest Hill Home Owners, Inc.
2419 Lee Boulevard
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
216.932.8952
www.fhho.org



FOREST HILL RESIDENTS QUARTERLY UPDATE

AUGUST 2017



Forest Hill Signage

The initiative to add entry signage and street sign toppers for Forest Hill continues. We received strong support for giving FHHO the authority to design and erect signage for Forest Hill from many residents via the trustee ballot. We'll need to expand this support, which will be an exciting challenge for our new trustees. It will likely involve us going door-to-door to solicit signatures, so look for a visit from a friendly neighborhood trustee over the coming weeks. We've had a lot of positive feedback about the project, with a few questions that I'll do my best to answer:

What will the signs look like?

Initially, we're contemplating two types of signage. Street sign toppers and entry signs. The street sign toppers will adorn all street signs within Forest Hill and will feature the historic Forest Hill Home Owners logo. The examples, below, provide an idea of what the sign toppers will look like and how they will be installed.



Entry signs present a more complex challenge, both in terms of materials and placement. The general feedback we've received is that stone entry markers, similar to the stone pillars at the entry to Forest Hill Park at the

corner of Forest Hills Blvd. and Lee Blvd., would integrate well with many of the WPA projects within Forest Hill Park and surrounding areas. Although these will require some degree of on-going maintenance, they're more historically appropriate and evoke a sense of longevity and gravitas. Forest Hill may be engraved, or may be mounted on a brass plaque, to echo the Cain Park entry on Lee. John Satola has volunteered to lead the design effort, and we'll be sharing these ideas as they develop.



How will the final design be selected?

Residents will have the opportunity to vote with dollars at the annual meeting in November, or through the FHHO website, which will have a signage donation page. The design that receives the most dollars will be selected.

Who will pay for the signage?

The signage will be paid for by donations to an ear-marked signage fund from you, the members and

residents of Forest Hill. FHHO will also set up a GoFundMe page to facilitate online donations. We will also be working with a fiscal agent to enable these donations to be tax-deductible. Note that signage donations will not be counted as an annual donation for the FHHO operating fund.

Where will they be located?

FHHO owns the cottage and grounds, a lot at the corner of Mayfield and Burlington. There are 15 entry streets to Forest Hill, with only 2 of them featuring FHHO property, and two grass triangles along Forest Hills Boulevard. Ideally, we'd like to see markers at the major entries to Forest Hill, details to be determined. Input is welcome, as is sponsorship.

When will they be installed?

Installation, of course, depends on many factors. Our progress will depend on our ability to demonstrate to Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland that we have the authority to erect signage. We will be depending on our newly-elected trustees to acquire the necessary signatures to grant the FHHO authority. Subsequent to this, we'll be selecting the designs, requesting bids from suppliers, and, of course, fundraising. Once we've acquired the necessary funding, we'll work with the cities on an installation plan.

President's Letter



Pete Grebus

Summer has finally arrived in Forest Hill. In my case, that means it's time to do battle with Canadian thistle. Like the Hydra, it seems for every stalk I chopped off last year, multiples grew back in its place. If people could eat thistle, I could open a farmer's market. At the advice of FHHO Secretary Sharon Leary, we opted to cover the beds with heavy-duty landscaping weed barrier. Time will tell.

The 2017 Monster Garage Sale was another success, thanks to Valda Lewis, once again. The MGS has become quite an institution in Forest Hill, with the addition of the trunk sale at the Forest Hill Presbyterian church parking lot, organized by FHHO's social events and street party chair, Judy Charlick.

The 2nd annual Forest Hill 5K is in the works, thanks to our dedicated residents and trustees, Eileen Smotzer and Kate Lewis. New for this year, the course has been certified for distance, which will significantly increase attendance. Also new for this year, Spice Restaurant will be in attendance, offering runners (and spectators) an opportunity to enjoy a breakfast burrito. Last year's 5K helped fund a Forest Hill Park outdoor summer camp program for kids.

The work on Forest Hill signage continues. The toughest challenge will be to gather the signatures necessary to prove to both Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland that we have the authority to erect signage on behalf of the residents. This will require 70% of all residents to approve, so no small challenge.

Trustee elections were held in May, with results tabulated by the League of Women Voters. The new trustees were welcomed to FHHO on Sunday, June 25th, where Chris Hubbert artfully navigated a complex and lengthy meeting. During the meeting, a majority of trustees voted to accept a policy of anti-harassment and anti-bullying, hopefully reminding us that we're all in this together, although we may disagree from time to time. The meeting also resulted in the formation of a nominating committee, set to assemble a slate of candidates, followed by an Executive Committee election. All of this should transpire over the next 60 or so days.

On a final note, a former eyesore house on Newbury, now being rehabbed by the Land Bank, and now stands as one of the nicest houses in the area. And, after a series of challenges, we are making progress on another one of Forest Hill's biggest eyesore houses. I've been told by the county prosecutor that this house is at the top of her agenda, and one of Forest Hill's biggest eyesores will be heading to the Land Bank for triage. Updates to follow.

Welcome to the Neighborhood

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest neighbors since January 2017:

- Sean & Jamilyn Hoehn - *Blackmore Road*
- Curtis Matthew Johnson - *Blackmore Road*
- Barbara & Willie Eady - *Eastwick Drive*
- Rogers Ward Jr. - *Forest Hills Boulevard*
- Clarence Flowers III - *Hereford Road*
- Marlis McMickle - *Hereford Road*
- Thomas & Jasmin Mone - *Hereford Road*
- Arthur & Meghan Ireland - *Kew Road*
- Christopher & Karen Thornton - *Lee Boulevard*
- Jo Ann Robinson - *Mayfield Road*
- Joseph & Monica Wikaryasz - *Monticello Boulevard*
- Michael Ward & Ashlee Dietrich - *Monticello Boulevard*
- William Battle - *Mt. Vernon Boulevard*
- Christopher Edwards - *Mt. Vernon Boulevard*
- Timothy Stewart - *Mt. Vernon Boulevard*
- Leandria Thomas - *Newbury Drive*
- Rose Wells-Mines - *Newbury Drive*
- Aaron Crow - *Taylor Road*
- Adil Majeed - *Taylor Road*



A Good Objective - No Homes for Rats in Forest Hill!

From the FHHO Archives,
Fall Newsletter, 1955 -

"Every fall many complaints are received as a result of dumping leaves and garden clean-up refuse on vacant property. It is realized that a big chore faces everyone in disposing of the remains of the fall harvest, but dumping it on vacant lots makes an ideal place for rats to establish winter headquarters.

Our city departments ordinarily will pick up refuse in small quantities in regular collections. They also will make special collections. When the city takes leaves and refuse away it is burned in their incinerators. Burning at home also is possible but city ordinance provides that a permit must be obtained from the fire department.

A good objective – no homes for rats in Forest Hill.

Many leaves remained uncollected from last fall on lawns or have been dumped into the streets in Forest Hill, necessitating this reminder, "no homes for rats in Forest Hill." Please bag your leaves appropriately (brown, paper leaf collection bags only) and set them out for garbage pickup. Tired of seeing leaves on your street? Organize a neighborhood clean-up!

2017 Board of Directors Elections

Thanks to all FHHO members who voted for our 2017 Board of Directors. Also thank you to our FHHO members who are dedicating their time and effort to helping us accomplish our mission by serving as trustees on our board of directors.

You can meet the new trustees and download a copy of the 2017 Board of Directors phone and email directory by visiting www.fhho.org/trustees-officers



Fall for Forest Hill 5K Run/Walk (USATF CERTIFIED Course)

Race Day Check-In on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. Race Begins at 9:00 a.m. Walk Starts at 9:05 a.m. Special kids' event – at finish

Experience spectacular fall colors on a unique and scenic course winding through historic Forest Hill Park. The 2nd Annual Fall for Forest Hill 5K Run/Walk will take place Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 9:00 am. The start and finish line will begin at Forest Hill Park, adjacent to the Cleveland Heights Community Center at 1 Monticello Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

Date: Sunday, October 15, 2017. Registration opens at 8:00 a.m. Race begins at 9:00 a.m. Walk starts at 9:05 a.m.

Where: Forest Hill Park, Picnic Shelter 2A & 2B. Parking lots located on Lee Blvd. and Forest Hill Blvd. Both lots are North of Monticello and the Cleveland Heights Community Center (1 Monticello Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio).

Pre-Registration & Registration Information:

- Race day check-in and start/finish is at Forest Hill Park, Picnic Shelter 2A & 2B.
- \$20 – Early registration closes October 10. Race day registration \$25.
- \$10 – Student (ages 11-17) registration closes October 10. Race day registration \$15.
- ***NEW*** \$100 – Student (ages 11-17) registration for teams up to 12. Team registrations should be mailed-in to FHHO, Inc. (see below for details). Team registration closes October 6.
- In-person registration on Sunday, October 15, 8:00 a.m. at Forest Hill Park, Picnic Shelter 2A & 2B.
- Mail-in registration must be in by Friday, October 6, 2017. Please make checks payable to: FHHO, Inc. Mail to: Forest Hill Home Owners, Inc., Attn.: Fall 5K, 2419 Lee Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118-1206
- Registration includes performance tee shirt and post race refreshments.

5K runner awards include top overall female & male and the top overall female & male in each age category: 14 & under, 15-17, 18-24, 24-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65 and over (chip timed). Additional prizes for family fun runners and walkers!

Features: *USATF CERTIFIED Course* - Race through scenic Forest Hill Park - One water stop - Refreshments and raffle following race - Parking available next to start and finish line - Awards - Wheelchair accessible - Stroller friendly - Race to benefit East Cleveland Parks Association - *Spice Restaurant will be offering their legendary breakfast burritos for sale post-race at The Boathouse!*

For more information about participating in or sponsoring the race, contact the Fall for Forest Hill Race Organizers, Kate Lewis & Eileen Smotzer at: fallforforesthill@fhho.org.

FHHO's Partnership with Cuyahoga County Land Bank



The renovation of the house on Newbury, our first partnership with Cuyahoga Land Bank, is really shaping up beautifully. While the renovation is still in progress, we hope this will become our model for working with Cuyahoga Land Bank, Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland on dealing with abandoned and vacant properties in Forest Hill. Cuyahoga Land Bank was able to provide the necessary tools and resources which allowed us to work together to quickly turn this property back into a usable parcel that will

reinvest in our long-term vision for Forest Hill. Our partnership benefits Forest Hill by enhancing local fund revenue for our neighborhood schools, improving tax revenues, removing public nuisances, and promoting economic development (*Kirwan Institute, Ohio State University*).

By transferring vacant and abandoned properties to responsible land owners through the Cuyahoga Land Bank program, Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland governments benefit because they avoid the significant cost burden of property maintenance, like mowing and snow removal as part of their nuisance abatement responsibilities. Once renovated, land bank properties, which become owner-occupied, discourage criminal activity thereby benefiting public safety and decreasing the cost burden on the local police and fire departments. The more residents and businesses that occupy property in a neighborhood,

the more services and amenities will be needed, which boosts local economic activity.

There were a few minor issues during our first project, however the Newbury house renovation has been a true collaboration between FHHO, Cuyahoga Land Bank, renovation contractors, and Cleveland Heights. FHHO worked with the contractor and the Land Bank to source building materials which were both cost affordable and that met our standards requirements. Neighbors are happy, we are happy and look forward to future collaborations!

For more information about roofing, window and siding materials which meet Forest Hill neighborhood standards, please contact our standards committee **before** you begin work. Visit www.fhho.org/standards-overview for forms and applications. Learn more about Cuyahoga Land Bank by visiting www.cuyahogalandbank.org



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