

News of your
neighborhood

Forest Hill

SPRING 2008

Forest Hill Home Owners, Inc. is a non-profit organization established more than fifty years ago to benefit the more than 950 homes in the Forest Hill neighborhood and to enforce the protective covenants applicable to each property in Forest Hill.

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Christopher J. Hubbert

Chair & Sr. Vice-President

Jan Milic

Vice-President, Standards

Ted Howard

Vice-President, Membership

Nate Wright

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Pam Mason

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Hester Lewellen

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Jeffrey D. Dress

A Message from the FHHO President:

Forest Hill Home Owners was founded in 1950 to preserve and promote the integrity and legacy of the Forest Hill community. In the '50s homes were still being built in Forest Hill and the standards committee was formed to ensure that new Forest Hill homes met the standards set forth in the deed covenants — architect designed with attached garages using high quality materials. As time passed the empty lots in Forest Hill were mostly filled and few new homes were being built. The role of the standards committee continued undiminished, but with a new focus. As Forest Hill residents made additions or other renovations to their homes, the standards committee collaborated with homeowners to encourage them to make architecturally sensitive decisions and use appropriate materials to maintain the high quality of our housing stock and enhance the neighborhood for all residents.

Today we are at a critical juncture. Forest Hill homes are aging (the Rockefellers have already passed the 75 year mark) and now require more maintenance. In some instances roofs, siding or windows must be replaced. For many homes, perhaps all that is necessary is a fresh coat of paint. Although the vast majority of Forest Hill homes are well maintained, maintenance issues have been exacerbated by the mortgage foreclosure crisis, which has left some homes empty. In addition to fulfilling its traditional role, the standards committee must continue to evolve to address these new issues.

The last two years Ted Howard has served as our vice president of standards and done an outstanding job. But the demands of his business have forced him to take a less active role and the committee is in need of new talent and leadership. If you are interested in assisting on the standards committee, please contact us. Experience in architecture, contracting or law would be beneficial, but is not required (Ted's business is recruiting). You can leave a message at the cottage at 216-932-8952 or email me at President@FHHO.org. It's your association and we need your input and talent to succeed.

Sincerely,
Christopher J. Hubbert



Notification to Home Owners in Forest Hill

Written approval from the Forest Hill Home Owners, Inc. is required for new construction, exterior alterations and/or additions to comply with Deed Restrictions.

Written Approval is Needed For:

Windows / Roofing / Siding / Fences / Patio Enclosures / Room Additions / Deck

Alteration guidelines are available on our website at www.fhho.org

Call **216-932-8952** for an application. FHHO approval is in addition to and independent of City approval.

Community Garden Started

Council Gardens, the low-income senior housing complex on Taylor Road, between the fire station and St. Louis Church, in partnership with the Ohio State University Agricultural Extension, has begun a community garden, and would like to invite neighbors to participate. Among other opportunities, there are two "Planting Events" scheduled: Thursday, April 17, noon to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, May 18, noon to 6 p.m. Tools and refreshments will be provided.

For additional information, you may contact Jackie Feldman, Director of Life Enrichment, (216) 382-8625, cjjackie@sbcglobal.net

Conserving Energy in Historic Buildings

The National Parks Service of the United States Department of the Interior in their Preservation Briefs gives a few tips to save on energy cost. They divide the ideas into "Passive Measures" and "Preservation Retrofitting."

Passive Measures

- ◇ lowering the thermostat in the winter, raising it in the summer
- ◇ controlling the temperature in those rooms actually used
- ◇ reducing the level of illumination and the number of lights used (maximize any natural light)
- ◇ Using operable windows, shutters, awnings and vents as originally intended to control interior environment (maximize fresh air)
- ◇ having mechanical equipment serviced regularly to ensure maximum efficiency
- ◇ cleaning radiators and forced air registers to ensure proper operation

Preservation Retrofitting

Preservation Retrofitting should always be undertaken with sensitivity to the historic significance of the structure. If performed correctly, Preservation Retrofitting can reduce energy use by 20-30%. They also remind us that technology is ever-changing. Any retrofit should be done with the idea that it could be removed and replaced with newer solutions as they become available. Three things should be considered.

1. Avoid retrofits that necessitate inappropriate building alterations
2. Insure that the retrofit does not create moisture related deterioration issues
3. Avoid retrofit materials that are chemically or physically incompatible with existing materials. (Problems have occurred with insulation that contains ammonia or aluminum sulfate as a fire retardant. Boric Acid is preferred and causes no problems. Sulfates react with the moisture in the air resulting in sulfuric acid that causes damage to metals, bricks, plumbing wiring and wood.)

The available options are:

- ◇ Air Infiltration – really, the first line of attack for the historic home. Weather-stripping and caulk can help to eliminate cold air from entering the conditioned area of the

home.

- ◇ Attic Insulation – Heat loss through the attic is a major problem in historic homes. Solving this, should be one of the first solutions undertaken. If flooring is present, such as in the Rockefeller homes, insulation should be added in the roof rafters, with the vapor barrier facing into the attic. It is important to maintain ventilation in the attic.

- ◇ Storm Windows – should be retained and used. If new storms are required, they should be installed in a way that does not interfere with the historic windows. If interior storm windows are used, it is important to guard against moisture.

- ◇ Basement and Crawl Space Insulation – in homes like ours, the only viable basement insulation option is the foundation walls. The vapor barrier should face into the basement.

- ◇ Duct and Pipe Insulation – Wrapping heating pipes and hot water lines can aid in energy costs. The vapor barrier should face into the basement.

- ◇ Shading Devices – Properly positioned trees can reduce the cost of summer cooling.

- ◇ Doors and Storm Doors – Historic doors should not be removed. Storm doors should only be added, if they do not impact the look and historic nature of the structure. NEVER add steel security doors, especially those with a design that is in conflict with the architecture of the building.

- ◇ Replacement Windows – should not be considered unless the existing windows are substantially deteriorated.

- ◇ Wall Insulation--Wood Frame – Because the heat loss from wood framed walls is relatively low, insulating the walls is generally not recommended. Blow-in insulation is the most likely for our homes. Urea formaldehyde foams and cellulose are not recommended because of the inclusion of aluminum and ammonium sulfate. Care should be taken to avoid damage to historic aspects of the home if this method is selected.

- ◇ Wall Insulation--Masonry Cavity Walls – insulation should not be added to the space located between masonry cavities. This areas might possibly get clogged and cause serious damage to the home.

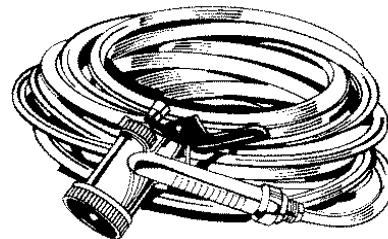
- ◇ Wall Insulation--Installed on the Inside – The practice of interior insulation will have a substantial impact on the interior look of our homes and is not recommended.

- ◇ Wall Insulation--Installed on the Outside – Installing insulated siding on the exterior of our homes is not allowed due to deed restrictions, but should not be considered because of its substantial impact to the historic aspects of the building.

- ◇ Waterproof Coatings for Masonry – Waterproof coating on masonry traps moisture in the masonry and is not recommended.

More details are provided by visiting the following website:
<http://www.nps.gov:80/hps/tps/briefs/brief03.htm>

Originally published in the Autumn 2007 Forest Hill Historic Preservation Society Quarterly Newsletter



Recognizing Great Neighbor

Each year, the city of Cleveland Heights recognizes extraordinary care given to property throughout the city and presents them with Community Improvement Awards. During the 2007 ceremony held in City Hall, the following Forest Hill neighbors received recognition:

- **The Dross/Ladouceur Residence on Glynn Road**
- **The DeVito Residence on Chelsea Drive**

Commercial/Institutional winners this year included two Forest Hill neighbors on Taylor Road:

- **Council Gardens**
- **Toddle Inn**

Two of the three 2007 Street Awards were given to neighbors in Forest Hill:

- **Chelsea Drive**
- **Hollister Road**

Congratulations to everyone! You make our neighborhood better!

You're Invited to the International Pot Luck Picnic

On Sunday, July 6, 2008, from noon to 5:00PM the Forest Hill Home Owners will host an International Pot Luck Picnic. We have reserved the boathouse in Forest Hill Park.

We are scheduled to eat at 1:30PM and encourage everyone to bring a food that represents their ethnic background or "food from home." Forest Hill is home to people from all over the world. We hope to see (and taste!) food from around the country and around the globe.

July 8th is John D. Rockefeller's 169th birthday, so we will also share a piece of birthday cake! For more information or to help with setup/cleanup or arrangements, call 932-8952.

Whether your heritage stems from China, India, Scandinavia, Ireland, Italy, Africa, the Southwest, Alabama, New England, or West Virginia, please join us and share with your neighbors the rich culinary history of the place you call "home." If you like, we encourage your wearing a native costume! We'll hope for good weather and a great deal of fun!

Vintage Clothing Sale

Forest Hill Home Owners Inc. will hold a vintage clothing sale benefit for the Blue Cottage on Saturday June 14, 2008. Those who would like to contribute should call 932-8952. Clothes and accessories must be clean and in good condition. If you are in need of a pick-up, please mention that when you call.

Safety Tips

At a recent neighborhood meeting, the following tips were offered to thwart theft in our neighborhood:

- Do not leave your garage door opener in your car in the driveway overnight. Someone could break into your car, open the garage door and gain access to your home. (This has actually occurred).
- Lock the door inside the garage even when the garage door is closed.
- Consider locking the car while inside the garage.
- Try to keep your car in the garage whenever possible.
- Notify your neighbors when you will be out of town so they can keep an eye on your home.

We all know there is an ample supply of criminals. Let's make it more difficult for them to do their job!

FHHO Honorary Trustees

The Forest Hill Home Owners Board of Trustees has recognized three residents who have served the community for many years and has bestowed on them the title of "Honorary Trustee". Eleanor Shankland, Hershel McCoy and Richard Secor have served the organization in an assortment of capacities over numbers of years.

Almost from the moment she moved into the neighborhood, Mrs. Shankland has served on the Board of Trustee as representative for her Chelsea Road neighbors. She continues in that capacity today.

Like Eleanor Shankland, Hershel McCoy has served on the Board of Trustees for many years. He has also served as Area Chair and currently holds the honorary position, Chair Emeritus on the Executive Committee.

Dick Secor is a Past President of the FHHO and Past Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He is now involved in the East Cleveland Parks Association and maintains his activity with the Burlington-Blackmore street association.

Neighbors such as Eleanor, Hershel and Dick have made Forest Hill the great neighborhood we all now enjoy. If you see them, remember to congratulate them and thank them for a job well done!

Scrap Metal "Benefit"

We're planning a scrap metal "benefit" with proceeds aimed at restoration and maintenance of the FHHO Cottage. If you would like to donate any metals, such as golf clubs, pipe, bicycles, gutters, fencing, nails, nuts, bolt, old tools, lawn mowers, hub caps, washers, dryers, pots, pans, hinges, hangars, car parts, chains, motors, utensils, whatever please call 932-8952 for pickup, through July 30, 2008. We hope to collect enough scrap to help keep the Blue Cottage the Cleveland Heights landmark it has become.



We know; you're saving all of your coin for the nursery. The winter has been long and cold and you can't wait to dig in the garden and plant something.

Before you get your hands dirty, don't forget to support your neighborhood organization and help out. A few less plants won't make a difference... Really.

Fill-in the form below and mail it to FHHO, 2419 Lee Blvd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118-1206. \$52 is the suggested membership fee, but any amount is welcome. If you'd like to further help your community, please indicate your interest in volunteering. You will be contacted!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____ **E-mail address:** _____

I want to get my hands dirty for the neighborhood; call me! _____

Notes from the Forest Hill Historic Preservation Society

Save the Date: Home & Garden Tour – June 27, 2009

While it may seem early to start thinking about the next tour, the Forest Hill Historic Preservation Society will begin planning next year's event. As many of us are aware, the biennial Home & Garden Tour provides educational information about our community and raises funds for various community-related projects.

We want our next Home & Garden Tour to be a huge success and our most exciting. In order for this to happen we need support from the community. For homeowners who have participated in previous tours, we know that this event requires a lot of preparation. For those who have not, we hope that you will consider opening your home and/or garden for this event.

If you are interested in participating in the 2009 Home & Garden Tour or have any ideas for the next tour, please contact Kesha Owens at 216-932-7549.

Website: Coming Soon

The Forest Hill Historic Preservation Society will be launching its new website in the Spring/Summer of 2008. Please stay tuned for more information.

-Kesha R. Owens
(Kesha is President of FHHPS. An article by the Society appears in each issue of the Forest Hill newsletter. If you are interested in more details about the organization, call her at 932-7549.)

Keep identification on you Pets!

I was recently giving my dog her morning walk when we were confronted by a small, beautiful and well-kept dog with no collar or identification. Fortunately, with a few phone calls, I found out who the dog belonged to and contacted the owner rather than contact the police (which is not a pretty picture). I also have two beautiful cats that were found without identification in our neighborhood some years ago. My gain, someone else's loss! Although we have reminded people before, it bears repeating: keep identification on your pets! There is always "one time" that they manage to escape without you knowing, and they are then at the mercy of the elements, traffic, and whoever finds (or takes) them.

Dear Forest Hill Home Owner:

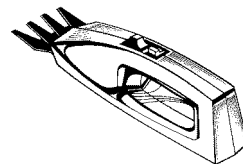
Forest Hill is a unique community that has the things we all desire in a community: peace, quietness, security, and a sense of serenity. However, we do not have the level of participation that we once had. There are eight streets where we do not have trustees. I will be going door to door soliciting residents to become trustees where we need them. Participation of Forest Hill residents is needed to maintain and preserve this beautiful and unique community.

*Nate Wright
Vice President - Membership FHHO*

Copper Thieves Beware!

Cleveland Heights police have successfully apprehended two separate rings of copper thieves. This is great news for our neighborhood. As the economy gets tougher, many people are looking for easy money. Scrap copper is quick becoming the "crime du jour". Remember, we do not need to make it easy for them! Here are a few tips:

- Be certain your downspouts are properly and fully secured to the structure of your home
- If you are away from home for an extended period of time, make your home look "lived-in" with light timers
- Be certain your mail and newspaper is stopped so they are not littering the front of your home
- Notify the police to inform them of your time away
- If copper plumbing is being replaced, consult your plumber and ask about polymeric alternatives. There are also some green alternatives that provide lead-free, solder-less electrosonically welded connections.
- If you see anything strange in the neighborhood, CALL THE POLICE! Components from your house may not be in the possession of the crook, but your neighbor will be happy you helped.



Memorial Day

On Memorial Day, Monday May 26, 2008, Lake View Cemetery (12316 Euclid Avenue with an entrance at Mayfield & Kenilworth Road) will hold a celebration. The day starts with a parade in front of the Garfield Monument followed by speakers and their annual veterans program. A band concert follows. The public is invited to picnic on the lawn. At 1:30 in the Community Mausoleum, entombed residents will be honored.

For those interested, we will have an informal "get-together" at the Rockefeller's Monument in Lakeview Cemetery After a few words about John D. Rockefeller; we can stop for coffee or depart.

Caregivers Night Out

Don't give up! I lived in Forest Hill for twenty years before any neighbor invited me for a party! And recently, a NEW resident took the initiative to invite her nearby neighbors for a sit-down full course dinner! Black and white, older and younger, we found that we all had at least one thing in common: caring for a disabled or elderly relative. The hostess is struggling with managing care for her parents in another city. The younger couple has cared for their Alzheimer mother for 19 years, and another neighbor has a younger disabled brother and now an ailing aging mother. I had cared two years at home for my late husband. Over good food and wine, we all had a marvelous time and left understanding our neighbors better. We are looking forward to another opportunity to "break bread together."

This experience moved me to plan a "Caregiver's Night Out." It is emotionally and physically draining to care for someone, and even knowing someone else who is dealing with similar problems provides a lift. Therefore, on Saturday, May 10th, I will personally host a dinner at the Blue Cottage for those people caring for a relative in their home. Because space is limited, it will be necessary to call to let me know you will be there.

Please call me, Jan Milic by Monday, May 5: 216-932-4658.

I think we will have a nice time.

Financial Audit Volunteer Needed

Forest Hill Home Owners, Inc. maintains concise financial records of all expenses and donations. As with any organizations, the financial records must be periodically reviewed by a professional. In the past, we have been forced to employ a professional auditor to complete this mandated task. That of course costs money that could better be used for the improvement of the neighborhood.

Before we hire an Auditor, we would appreciate any Forest Hill resident who would like to help.

If you can perform an audit on the Forest Hill Home Owner's books, please call 932-8952 or e-mail our Treasurer, Tony Rupcic at treasurer@fhho.org. Your time and talent will help the organization and your neighborhood.

Thanks in advance!

Nominations Sought For Forest Hill Home Improvement Award

Has someone in your neighborhood done exemplary work in the care and maintenance of their home? Is the home painted regularly, is the lawn mowed and trimmed at the perfect time? Do people slow down to stare at the home? Let us know about them. Call the Forest Hill Home Owners at 932-8952 and let us know the address and owner. We'd like to reward the best of our neighborhood.

Have you said, "Hello!" to our new neighbors?

BOLTON – Barbara J. Danforth
BRANDON – Julien & Veronica Ake
BRANDON – Benjamin & Sylvia Davis
BREWSTER – Melissa Hoyt Carr
BREWSTER – Henry Travers Newton, Jr.
BREWSTER – Vetella Camper
BREWSTER – Terry Maynard
CARVER – Earl Douglas
CHELSEA – Aryln & Jan Cunin
CLEVIDEN – Darryl & Kim London
CLEVIDEN – Parminder Singh & Tej Kanwal
GLYNN – George & Sharon Mitchell
GLYNN – Michael Harris
HEREFORD – Stacey Robinson
KEW – Mathew Brakey & Erica Martin
LEE – Maryann Brooks Harris
MT VERNON – Harold Durham
NORTHVALE – Robert Eaton III
RUMSON – Sean Nichols
RUMSON – Nicholas Zwinggi & Marla Komocki
TAYLOR – Kevin Hannah
WESTOVER – Rita Kelley



Forest Hill Filmmaker

Forest Hill neighbor, Valda Lewis (Rumson Road) had a film shown at the 32nd Cleveland International Film Festival. "Devil's Oven-The Fire in the Heart of the Little Cities of Black Diamonds," is a documentary about the 1884 coal miner's strike in New Straitsville, OH. Fires started in the mines by disgruntled coal miners for better wages and working conditions, still burn at random throughout the area today. The Hocking Valley Mine Strike of 1884-1885 led to major changes in labor influence across the country.

For more information on the work of Valda Lewis, you may visit www.valdalewis.com

Call for Used Book Donations

On Saturday, September 20, 2008 Forest Hill Home Owners will hold a Used Book Sale at the blue cottage on the corner of Lee and Monticello Boulevards. We would appreciate any donations to make this a more successful event that will help the neighborhood and get books into the hands of new readers. You may call the FHHO office at 932-8952 up to September 1, 2008 to help.

How Does Your Home Measure Up?

We are living in difficult times. A few of our neighbor's houses have been foreclosed upon and now sit empty. As is the case throughout the county, the market value of our homes may now be lower than they were one year ago. Because of the increased value of scrap copper and aluminum, thieves are now pinpointing areas where they know they can easily remove gutters, waterlines and siding without detection. This could be a turning point for our neighborhood as we and the nation try to recover from the foolishness of lenders and the personal irresponsibility of consumers who borrowed and spent beyond their means.

Now, more than ever before it is important to keep our place looking great.

For a moment, I would like you to think like a thief and then a prospective home buyer.

The thief is fearful of only one thing, getting caught. When determining the location of his next crime, he is looking for a place that allows him to slip in and out without notice. An unkempt or abandoned building may as well have an engraved invitation pasted on the door. A home where the snow is not shoveled announces to the bandit that, "No one is home and no one cares." A neighborhood especially hard hit by financial events is exactly where he wants to be.

At the same time many are loosing their homes; other people are searching for what will be their first home. Reduced pricing is accelerating the search and will likely bring a younger crowd into the market. They will be looking for the same things that drove you to Forest Hill, a beautiful home in a beautiful neighborhood. They know the home they are considering may have its challenges. Their real estate agent will most likely have told them that the home was in foreclosure. The perceptive buyer will be looking beyond the four walls and into the neighborhood. Does this house warrant the addition of \$50,000 in repairs? Once the real estate crisis subsides, will my investment lead to added value? For answers to these questions, they will be looking at your house and mine.

Take a critical look at your home. Is your home in need of a painting or staining? Is your landscaping overgrown and unruly? Do you have a section of gutter missing or a downspout that needs to be replaced? Is the roof in need of repair or replacement? Does your driveway need repair or sealing?

Now is the time to take care of these issues. The actions you take today will insure the value of your property tomorrow. It may even help resurrect an economically suffering region and our neighborhood.

Ed. Note: As you contemplate repairs for the season, it is important to remember that some repairs and replacement done to homes in Forest Hill require approval from the FHHO Standards Committee. This is done to insure quality products are used and unscrupulous contractors are avoided. Call 932-8952 for more information.

Standards Committee Needs You!

The neighborhood is in need of your help. The Forest Hill Home Owners, Inc. needs people to volunteer for service on the Standards Committee. If you can spare a few hours a month, please call 932-8952. The neighborhood will appreciate your efforts insuring it is kept in good repair.

East Cleveland Help

In the autumn 2007 issue of this newsletter, we asked if any resident wanted the Forest Hill Home Owners to do anything as it relates to living in East Cleveland. Rather than helping, the request for input had the adverse reaction of offending some readers. Obviously, that was not our intent. Actually, no one requested assistance. FHHO has dropped the idea. For those of you who were uncomfortable with the timbre of the article, we are sorry.

Life is a "Cabaret!"

Forest Hill resident, Hester Lewellen will appear in "Cabaret" at the Aurora Community Theatre. Hester is an actress who moved to Cleveland Heights from New York City thirty years ago. Since retiring from Baldwin-Wallace College where she was a math professor, she has renewed her commitment to theatre and performance.

In "Cabaret" she has the role originally created by Lotte Lenya, which includes two solos and two duets. There will be eight performances, Friday and Saturday nights only, from April 25 to May 17. Show starts at 8:00. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased on line at www.auroracommunitytheatre.com. You may call 330-562-1818 for additional information.

CFL Advice

An easy way to save some money on our residential electric bill is to change conventional light bulbs to Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL's.) How do we know which bulb to select? The aisles at Home Depot are filled with a variety of lamps and prices. If the wrong one is chosen, you may not be satisfied. To alleviate that problem, here are a few suggestions to make shopping easier:

- Select lamps that are "Energy Star" certified. These lamps are tested in a number of different ways to earn certified.
- Incandescent light bulbs have a Kelvin temperature range of about 2600K to 2950K. Choose CFL's that are either 2700K or 3000K. These will seem more normal.
- If included on the packaging, select lamps with a Color Rendering Index (CRI) in the high 70's and above. 100 is perfect, but typically not available.
- Review the package for lamp position suggestions and match that to your application.

With these few points, it will be easy to save some money.

What I Love About Forest Hill

Sure there are a few things that get you upset about Forest Hill, but in general, this is a great place.

We want to know why you like this neighborhood. We'd love to publish the best comments in upcoming newsletters.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please mail this to the FHHO office at 2419 Lee Boulevard Cleveland Heights, OH 44118 or send an e-mail to: newsletter@fhho.org

What I Dislike About Forest Hill

Yes, we like Forest Hill, this would be the best place in the world to live...except for one little thing.

We want to know what gets you upset about our neighborhood. Perhaps we can help. Tell us how.

Name: _____

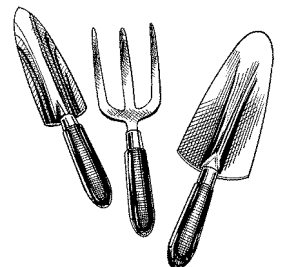
Address: _____

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Remember the International Pot Luck Picnic Sunday July 6, 2008 at Forest Hill Park Pavilion 12 to 5:00