

News of your
neighborhood

Forest Hill

AUTUMN 2009

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.

President

Christopher J. Hubbert

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Jan Milic

Vice-President, Standards

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Jeffrey R. Dross

A Message from the FHHO President:

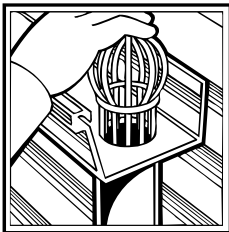
I'm sure that many of you, like me, were relieved to see your property taxes lowered this year in terms of your payments, but concerned about the ramifications that has for your home value. Although foreclosures have not come to a stop, I'm pleased to be able to report some positive trends. First, the rate of foreclosures in Forest Hill appears to be slowing. And perhaps more importantly, sales are picking up — 32 this year so far. I am cautiously optimistic the housing market may have hit bottom. I expect it will take some time for home values to rebound to pre-2008 levels, but hopefully the recovery process can now begin.

Your association continues to work on your behalf to help protect the value of your home. But we can't do it without your support. If you don't see your name in the list of contributors on page three please contribute. It's a small investment to make in the community you call home.

Sincerely,
Christopher J. Hubbert

Lore of Forest Hill II: Taylor Boulevard

It seems as far back as 1938, there was confusion about north and south Taylor. In the March 11, 1938 edition of the *Heights Press* (the precursor of the *Sun Press*), the paper reported that Taylor north of Mayfield would be referred to as Taylor Boulevard, since many people neglected to add the "north" prefix. A complete name change was also suggested, perhaps changing South Taylor to "Taylorton." But then Cleveland Heights Mayor Frank C. Cain objected, arguing Cleveland Heights probably had the name first and shouldn't have to change it! Clearly the "boulevard" designation didn't stick, as we still refer to the street north of Mayfield as North Taylor Road. The address confusion between north and south Taylor hasn't gone away either. And we know that letters addressed to 2419 Lee Road (south of Mayfield) sometimes wind up at the FHHO offices at 2419 Lee Boulevard, so perhaps the boulevard solution wouldn't have worked any better than north and south designations. Maybe Taylorton wouldn't have been half bad!



"Thanks Neighbor!"

Susan Lefferts and Lillian Houser are recognized as outstanding "Good Neighbors" for their assistance with an elderly neighbor's daily routines, giving her outings and taking her for doctor's appointments. Their efforts make the meaning of "neighbor" alive and special!

2009 Annual Meeting Set

When you bought your house, you immediately became a member of Forest Hill Home Owners, Inc. Part of your duty as a member is to attend the annual meeting and define the future of the organization. That opportunity becomes available again this year at the Annual Forest Hill Home Owner Meeting. This year's event will take place:

Tuesday November 10, 2009

A.M. McGregor Home – 14900 Private Drive East Cleveland, Ohio 7:00PM

A yearly financial report of Forest Hill Home Owners will be presented, relative questions will be taken and home owners will elect trustees to the board. Join your neighbors and friends and learn a bit about the community. See you there!

What About Fences?

This topic always gets a conversation (or argument) going! It was as much an issue in the US Colonies, in the open prairies of the old West, as it is today. The subliminal message sent is, "Stay off my property!" That negative sentiment sets heat to the controversy. The Covenants established (and attached to the legal property records) for Forest Hill-Developed properties mandate that no fence or free-standing structure be erected on a property. This was established so that blocks would have an open, park-like center without obstruction.

The mandate has long been modified to accommodate an approved-type of fence *when all adjoining property owners or those within a sight line* agree.

In no case has a *stockade*, or *privacy* fence been approved in our neighborhood. Any owners who have erected those have made the statement that they do not want to abide by the cooperative agreement among neighbors. When a fence request is submitted to the FHHO Standards Committee, it is usually approved, providing that the fence is *style compliant*, i.e., three-feet tall or less and visually unobtrusive.

However, there will always be residents who want to do things their own way. Remember that the Covenants of Forest Hill Properties override any city permits. In the past, city permits have not been issued for roof, fence, or other construction projects without due process of FHHO.

We are issuing this statement as a reminder that our neighborhood standards can only remain high when neighbors themselves agree to comply rather than defy. If the standards had not been enforced through the past fifty years, you might not have chosen to invest in a property here. It is interesting to know that other neighborhoods are now trying to develop guidelines such as we have, in order to maintain quality in their area. Most new developments now have similar restrictions and residents willingly pay a mandatory monthly fee as well. In fifty years, what will these neighborhoods be like? Will the residents defy or cooperate with the long-standing restrictions? Cooperation is certainly more agreeable than litigation.

We hope that the caliber of residents in Forest Hill can show that we are considerate enough of our neighbors to live in a congenial fashion, whether it be noise, control of children, pets, or exterior construction.

Please think about your neighbors, your neighborhood and your community before beginning construction.



Welcome Fairmount Cleaner!

Fairmount Cleaners, the well regarded Heights area dry cleaning company, will be opening a new location on the Mayfield Road portion of the Heights Rockefeller Building. Once open, why not consider stopping in and welcoming them to the neighborhood...and bring some of your dirty clothes, too! They have a long history of making their customers look better.

How Does Your Street Stack-Up?

The Forest Hill neighborhood consists of 32 streets, with 31 that have residents. (Stuart Road does not have any homes.) Have you ever wondered how your street compares with the others in the area?

The streets with the most homes in the neighborhood are as follows:

1. Glynn Road (83)
2. Newbury Drive (62)
3. Monticello Boulevard (61)
4. Hereford Road (58)
5. Brewster Road and Forest Hills Boulevard (56 each tie)
6. Oakhill Road (53)
7. Rumson Road (51)
8. Chelsea Drive (49)
9. North Taylor Road (43)
10. Mount Vernon Road (42)

Wyatt Road and Walden Road are the least populated street with nine homes each. Seaton Road has eleven homes, Bolton Road has 15, Kew Road has 16 and Fenemore Road has 17.

As of our August 15, 2009 publication date, Chelsea Road and Rumson Road has 18 contributors to the Forest Hill Homeowners Association. Mayfield Road and Seaton Road each have only one contributor.

Because of the wide variety of street sizes, perhaps more important, is the relative percent of contributors.

1. Kew Road (37.5%)
2. Chelsea Drive (36.7%)
3. Rumson (35.3%)
4. Bolton Road and Burlington Road (33.3% each tie)
5. Hollister Road (31.8%)
6. Henley Road (30.6%)
7. Brewster Road (25%)
8. Mount Vernon Boulevard (23.8%)
9. Walden Road and Wyatt Road (22.2% each tie)
10. Forest Hills Boulevard (21.4%)
11. Monticello Boulevard (21.3%)
12. Newbury Drive (21%)
13. Brandon Road, Carver Road and Eastwick Drive (20% each tie)

Regardless of where you live, we appreciate each and every contribution. A full list of each individual/family contributor is listed in the newsletter. Check out all of the names and if you don't like the status of your streets rank, get your neighbors together and push for something better next year!

Who is the Trustee for My Street? – If the Space is Blank, We Need Someone. Will You Help?

Street	Description	Trustee	Phone Contact No.
Blackmore	All	Jan Milic	932-4658
Bolton	All	Trip Mason	371-6159
Brandon (north)	1060-1104	Judy Heuman	371-3977
Brandon (south)	1107-1177	Bob Muth	321-6069
Brewster	All	Patrick Jordan	397-4091
Burlington (north)	1317-1391		
Burlington (south)	1400-1552	Katie Pantano	321-0192
Carver	All	Gloria Strong	321-2853
Chelsea (west)	3060-3181	Susan Lefferts	321-4461
Chelsea (east)	3289-3384	Dorothy Rambo	932-3033
Cleviden (west)	15689-16101		
Cleviden (east)	16131-16233	Frank Ricci	397-9960
Eastwick	3100-3159	Hester Lewellen	932-4290
Fenemore	All		
Forest Hills (Cl. Hts)	1290-1450	Jeff King	320-9930
Forest Hills (E. Cl.)	15590-16237		
Glynn	All	Michele Ladouceur	321-0206
Henley (east)	15521-15904	Adele Kious	
Henley (west)	15970-16070		
Hereford (north)	1012-1073	Gwen Bennett	371-9324
Hereford (central)	1087-1153		
Hereford (south)	1203-3344	Norman/Lynn Prange	932-7334
Hollister	3347-3436	David Ward	321-4845
Kew	All	Jan Milic	932-4658
Lee/Newbury (north)	2025-2215	Cynthia Hunt	932-9771
Lee/Newbury (central)	2263-2419	Pat Ortiz & Andrea Cameron	397-7348 & 397-1153
Mayfield (condos)			
Monticello (w/n)	3020-3100 odd	Pat Ortiz	397-7348
Monticello (w/s)	3020-3100even		
Monticello (e/n)	3111-3396 odd	Nate Wright	932-1062
Monticello (e/s)	3111-3396 even	Clyde Henry	321-0399
Mt. Vernon (north)	1099-2233	Adam Tomlinson	320-1276
Mt. Vernon (south)	2252-2285		
Newbury (north)	2072-2399	David Richardson	371-5324
Newbury (south)	2400-2460	Lillian Houser	321-6436
Northvale (east)	3549-3704		
Northvale (west)	16001-16491		
Rumson (west)	3162-3264		
Rumson (central)	3284-3380	Christopher Hubbert	736-7215
Rumson (east)	3405-3451		
Rutherford	All		
Seaton	All	Tony Rupcic	371-6233
N. Taylor	All	Sally Miller	321-2516
Walden	All		
Westover	All	Linda Johnston	371-4895
Wyatt	All	Barry O'Brien	371-1911

Want to be a Trustee, or did you forget to pay you yearly dues? Fill-in the form below and mail it to FHHO, 2419 Lee Blvd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118-1206. \$52 is the suggested membership fee, if you'd like to further help your community, we will gladly accept more!

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

_____ **YES! I want to help out and serve as street Trustee!**

Thanks to the following contributors to Forest Hill Home Owners, Inc. – You make us a better neighborhood!

\$200 and Up

Chelsea Drive

-Lincoln C. Haughton III
-Susan Lefferts & Geoffrey Lefferts
-Jan Milic
Newbury Drive
-Dr. Mitchell V. Barney
Rumson Road
-Christopher J. Hubbert & Dr. Abigail J. Behrens

\$100 to \$199

Brandon Road

-Chellis D. Madison & Mary S. Madison
Brewster Road
-John W. Moody, Jr.

Burlington Road

-Dr. Jess R. Young & Gloria M. Young

Carver Road

-Wilma L. Borden

Chelsea Drive

-Dana Lee & Ben Osowski
-Theodore L. Carten & Coralyce W. Carten
-Leslie A. Jones & Johnnie B. Jones

Cleviden Road

-LaWanda M. Prah

Forest Hills Boulevard

-Rev. James Bannerman & Beatrice Bannerman

Glynn Road

-Jeffrey R. Dross & Michele J. Ladouceur

Hollister Road

-Sally Miller & Robert Miller
-Thomas Nobbe & David Ward
-Leo Coyle, Ph.D. & Betty Coyle

Lee Boulevard

-Edward Albert & Margaret Albert

Monticello Boulevard

-Andrew B. Albert, Jr. & Winnifred Albert
-Nathaniel Wright & Marva Wright

Mt. Vernon Boulevard

-Peter L. Schofield

Newbury Drive

-David A. Richardson & Sharon Richardson

Northvale Boulevard

-William H. Smoot II & Frances M. Smoot

Oakhill Road

-James C. Barle & Samantha Glickman

Rumson Road

-Dr. Donna O. Kolb
-Marla K. Zwinggi & Nicholas C. Zwinggi
-Margaret Jakob & Dr. Herbert G. Jakob

-Agnes Alice Lina & Gizella J. Lina

Rutherford Road

-Rev. Wesley Toles & Arvell M. Toles

Seaton Road

-Anthony Ruppic & Angela Ruppic

Westover Road

-Lee McDade & Angela McDade

Up to \$99

Blackmore Road

-Stephen S. Sims & Kimberly R. Meier-Sims
-Donna A. Sivak & Michael V. Sivak, Jr.

Fiona Reilly & Mike Reilly

-JoAnn M. O'Donnell & Richard T. O'Donnell
-Howard Maier & Sue Maier

Bolton Road

-Mozell Greer & Verna H. Greer
-Sampson H. Tedunjaiye & Victoria O. Sampson

James H. Polk & Pamela A. Mason

-Nancy L. Simpson
Brandon Road
-Leon Rembert & Ernestine Rembert

Robert W. Heuman & Julia Heuman

-Lloyd Stowers & Mary Louise Stowers
-Jeffrey Duber & William Fulton

Peter L. Schofield & Marva Wright

Mt. Vernon Boulevard

-Peter L. Schofield

Newbury Drive

-David A. Richardson & Sharon Richardson

-James R. Harmon & Don Schmitt

-Trina L. Prufer
-Ranjit Kumar Datta
-Eugene Pawlowski

-Henry Travers Newton, Jr.

-Carolyn G. Holt
-William B. Weisel

-John K. Burdick & Melissa Hoyt Carr

-Jacqueline Hammond
-Eugenia Poustyreva

-Charlotte L. Horton

Burlington Road

-John Ivancic & Amelia Ivancic

-Bernadine J. Machock & Cathy A. Whelan

-James Young & Cindy Young

-Scott C. Peters & Jeannine M. Gury

-Martha T. Wright & Joseph Quittner

-Judene M. Hubach & Lia Clement

-Grace G. Bailey & Michael G. Bailey

-Alexander Jamieson & Nancy Jamieson

-Charles Sprague & Rosanna Sprague

-Kathleen M. Carrick

Carver Road

-Sylvester Bennett & Eloise Bennett

-Darylene Doxey-Williams & Ronald Williams

-Ann-Marie Ogletree

-Gloria J. Strong

Chelsea Drive

-Shirley LeCompte & Delbert P. LeCompte

-Harold Rambo & Dorothy Rambo

-Mark H. Feingold & Judy Feingold

-John E. Umstead & Mattie Umstead

-Carla L. Carten & Mo Modarreszadeh

-James M. Posey, Jr. & Rosetta Moore

-Mildred Hathaway & William Kolb

-Joan Siegel
-Nathaniel O. Overby
-Marilyn Ann Cunin

-Jane Cunin

-Ashley E. Smith

Cleviden Road

-Charles Simpson & Bernice Simpson

-Timothy E. Welsh & Wendy J. Smither

-Deborah Adrine

-Hubert E. Smith

Eastwick Drive

-Klaus G. Roy & Gene J. Roy

-Glending Olson & Hester Lewellen

-Bobby McDowell & Ida McDowell

-Ella Doss & James M. Doss

Fenemore Road

-Gloria L. Avery-Prease & James Prease

-Delmus Deskins & Kathryn Deskins

-Marsha A. Cappy & Stephen R. Sileo

Forest Hills Boulevard

-Carlotta D. Meneese & Carl Meneese

-Wen Ko & Christina Ko

-Jeffrey King & Delores Hasan

-Dr. Manning W. Rosemond & Edrose Rosemond

-Earl A. Johnson & Elizabeth S. Johnson

-Wallace Smith & Ellen Smith

-Dr. Owen C. Van Kirk & Georgann Van Kirk

-Douglas Rose & Lois Rose

-Ruth L. Kay
-Hattie R. Helm

-Mary Gates

Glynn Road

-Lou Cinda Holt & Dennis Owen Grey

-Mary Eldridge & Edward Eldridge

-Lelar M. Whitaker

-Deborah L. Bibb & Sonja H. Brandt

-Ella Russell
-Virginia F. Colville

Henley Road

-Melba Bellmar & Alvyn Bellmar

-Leverta M. Holly & Anna A. Marshall

-Victor R. Barnett, Sr. & Beverly Barnett Datta
-Earle W. Jackson & Lenore Jackson

-Ray Brown & Lisa Brown

-Joseph G. Pilla & Mary Pilla

-Fletcher Smith & Mary Smith

-Asteed J. Green
-Louise Bragg

-Mamie R. Ferguson

-Jean-Patrick Ducroux

Hereford Road

-Emmett B. Saunders & Billie Saunders

-Wanda Rollins & Edward Rollins

-Rev. Arthur F. Farr & Lizzie P. Farr

-Norman O. Prange & Lynn Prange

-James Brown & Wildora Brown

-Malcolm E. Kenney

-Gwendolyn J. Bennett

-Lula M. Robinson

-Gloria Glover

-Susan Hill
-McLaughlin

-Carleen K. Carver

Hollister Road

-Margaret Bakale & George Bakale

-Rosemary Klee & Marion Klee

-Cheryl Stephens

-Karen Y. Murray

Kew Road

-Bill Falender & Carol Falender

-Brian Smith & Marjorie N. Edguer

-Edward J. Kelley, Jr. & Mary Beth Kelley

-Paula B. Harvey & Tom Harvey

-John L. Jirus

-Timothy P. Larsen

Lee Boulevard

-Juanita Bass

Mayfield Road

-Dorothy Johnson Broz

Monticello Boulevard

-Mildred Chambless & Charles Chambless

-Mary E. Rice & David O. Rice

-Gilbert C. Croley & Doris J. Croley

-Graylon G. Keeton & Hattie Keeton

-Albert L. Brussee & Joanne M. Brussee
-Clyde J. Henry, Jr. & Leila Henry

-Carol Becker & Patricia Needham

-Pamela A. Dickinson & Stanley S. Dickinson

-Betsey Kaufman & Yvonne Bolitho

-Helen Sadler-Oliver

-James Earl Halsell

Mt. Vernon Boulevard

-Heather Tomlinson & Adam Tomlinson

-Thomas J. Deskins & Barbara J. Harris-Deskins

-Frank Ricchi & Elfie Ricchi

-Edward Malone & Elois M. Malone

-Harriet Scruggs & LeMon Scruggs

-Delores J. McQueen & Leslie McQueen

-Louise A. Kates & Harold Williams

-Ann B. Clancy

Newbury Drive

-Morris Walker & Christine Walker

-Janet M. Briggs & Dora Rice

-Cathy L. Johnson & Eddie D. Johnson, Sr.

-James A. Connally & Edna Connally

-Stephen J. Szaraz & Irene Szaraz

-Lillian M. Houser & James Houser

-Jaime L. Deluke & Kyle Koennecke

-Dr. Dalma S. Takacs & Lajos Takacs

-Joseph L. Greene, Jr. & Ruby Greene

-Alice V. Lee
-Peggy J. DeFoor Mosely

North Taylor Road

-Carole Shaver & Benjamin Shaver

-Rosa L. Benton & Charlotte Perry

-Thelma L. Smith & James Smith

-Milton Brundidge & Pearl Brundidge

-Rose Ann Ciliberti
Northvale Boulevard
-Charles A. DeMore & Elaine Rowan DeMore

-Isaiah Jones & Emma K. Jones

-Joseph E. Meissner & Zora Meissner

-Joan Atkinson

-Patricia Bowman Jenkins

Oakhill Road

-Edward W. Bourguignon & Marilyn Bourguignon

-Germaine L. Gibian

-Deborah N. AbdulRahim, Ph.D.

-Gregory M. Videtic

Rumson Road

-Michael Pendleton & Amy Pendleton

-Kurt Mott & Berneda Mott

-William Leighton Scott, Jr. & Carol Scott

-Raymond W. Liu & Caryn Tong

-William P. Head, Jr. & Jacqueline M. Head

-Ronald Hart & Jan Hart

-Robert Bielek & Joanne Bielek

-Richard L. Secor & Mollie Secor

-Jimmy H. Seeders & Patricia L. Seeders

-Mary E. Hall & Phillip Hall

-Elizabeth Bartels & Robert Bartels

-Gamini Nissanka & Theresa Nissanka

-Barbara R. Engle

-Sharon M. Collins

Rutherford Road

-Isaiah L. Rucker & Mary Alice Rucker

-James R. Perdue

Walden Road

-Ernest J. Harris & Lillie Bell Harris

-Naomi Williams & Warren Williams

Westover Road

-Linda L. Johnston
-Ann Baird
Wyatt Road
-Barry O'Brien & Jan Toyota
-Jamain Owens & Kesha Owens

(List of supporters as of August 15, 2009)

Thanks Everyone for Your Continued Support!

Cleveland Heights Council Race Features Two Forest Hill Residents

With the early announcement that Council member Nancy Dietrich will not seek re-election to a new term in Cleveland Heights city council, a large group of candidates have filed petitions with the county to run for the four available seats. Along with incumbents Bonnie Caplan, Mark Tumeo and Forest Hill resident Edward Kelley, another Forest Hill resident, Cheryl Stevens has joined the crowded field.

Gary Benjamin, Mary Dunbar, Fran Mentch, Toby Rittner, Jason Stein and Keba Sylla have also pulled petitions, with the intent of filing. The petition filing deadline for Cleveland Heights is September 4, 2009. As of the writing of this article, a few candidates have not yet been officially filed their petitions with the Cuyahoga County Board of Election.

Because Cleveland Heights has a non-partisan election, all of the ten (or more) candidates will appear on the ballot. The top four vote-getters will win election to Cleveland Heights City Council. Heights H

Don't Forget to Vote:

September 29, 2009 & November 3, 2009

East Cleveland Elections Features Two Forest Hill Residents

Current East Cleveland Ward 3 Councilman and Forest Hill resident, Gary Norton has decided to run for Mayor of East Cleveland against incumbent Eric Brewer. Because the East Cleveland mayoral race is partisan, a Democratic primary will be held on September 29, 2009. At the July 1, 2009 deadline, no Republican had filed, so a Republican primary will not be held. It is likely that the winner of the Democratic primary will be mayor of East Cleveland for the next four years.

The East Cleveland portion of Forest Hill is encompassed within the borders of City Council Ward 3. Another Forest Hill resident, Chantelle Lewis has filed petitions to take Mr. Norton's place. She will run against Ephraim Abdullah and former council member, O. Mays, both of whom live outside of Forest Hill.

Three Candidates, Major Adams, Jr., Virginia Russell and Kumar Strowder will oppose incumbents, Joy Jordan and Nathaniel Martin for a position as Council at Large. None of the candidates are Forest Hill residents.

East Cleveland Council at Large and Council Ward candidates run in non-partisan elections and so, will not face-off until the November 3, 2009 General Election.

Notes from the Forest Hill Historic Preservation Society

The Forest Hill Historic Preservation Society is lucky to be centered in an area covered by deed restrictions. Often times, historic properties are defaced, decimated and destroyed long before society realized the gem they represent. Because John D. Rockefeller, Jr. initiated Deed Restrictions at the inception of the community, most of the historic Rockefeller homes have suffered only minor infractions. In fact, in the petition for recognition of historic status, only a few non-compliant aspects were called out. We have been remarkably good guardians of history.

Our fortunes can and might change. Many of the residents who love and care for their Rockefeller homes are getting older. The demands of these complex homes require a younger mind and body. Some of the new generation of owners are less respectful of the history and the buildings. Gutters are removed and not replaced. Roofs are left with missing slate panels. Fences are erected using cheap materials and unskilled labor. An original mailbox is removed, replaced with a resin model from Home Depot and lost forever. It may seem insignificant, but long ago, the mansions on Euclid Avenue were at the height of desirability. Today, that is no longer the case.

The deed restrictions have prevented the removal of the steel casement windows in one house; they prevented the installation of a six-foot diameter satellite dish in the backyard of another. Still, deed restrictions, enforced by a voluntary staff and donated dollars cannot always overcome the obstacle and determination of those who think only of themselves and not the community good. The neighborhood has always been dotted by an abandoned home here and a neglected home there. We are now seeing owners blatantly defying the deed restrictions and the historic home they agreed to foster for the time they lived within.

A ride through the historic district will immediately illustrate the point. Well maintained homes are set along side of homes that are abandoned. Unkempt yards are connected to pristine landscaping. A cherry red fence has been installed without the benefit of a plum bob or level during constructed. Original toilets are left on the tree lawn for rubbish collection, without concern to their past.

We are only a few homes away from turning into the next Euclid Avenue. Yet, there is hope. Excited owners arrive each year. Conscientious owners, when forced to sell work hard to find good buyers. The Forest Hill Deed restrictions are at our back, assisting us as we try to keep a viable and relevant historic neighborhood. We are living in precarious times. Won't you help, or get out of the way of those who will?

-Jeffrey R. Dross

(Jeff is Vice-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 him at 321-0206.)

Trap-Neuter-Return A Humane Way to Deal With An Inhumane Reality

"One death is a tragedy. A million is a statistic." – Joseph Stalin

Humans who have failed to neuter or spay their cats have created an untenable situation that has allowed a civilized society to imagine the viability of hundreds of thousands of euthanized domestic animals each and every year. Our abandonment of these former house pets has created feral colonies of cats, a living arrangement, whereby cats return to the wild and create a society outdoors. The cycle can be abetted and humans can help feral cats live a reasonable life in the "wild" with a little education.

A feral cat is an unsocialized cat. It was born outside. The likelihood of a feral cat moving to adoption is VERY slim. They avoid human contact and will be very poor pet. Feral cats brought into shelters, typically face euthanasia. Experts have determined that the only viable method to deal with feral cat colonies is a system called Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR).

We have all heard the arguments. Feral cats are filled with disease. Feral cats are bad for humans. Feral cats should be taken to the animal shelter. Feral cats spend the night yowling and fighting. Feral cats are the bane of my neighborhood. With a little education a little humane compassion, you can learn how to deal with the unfortunate byproduct of man's inhumanity.

Like all animals, Mother Nature has imbued cats with a desire to reproduce. By removing the drive to mate, a feral colony can live in peace. Add a sustainable source of food and it is unlikely that a neighborhood will know that a group of cats lives in the area, save the occasional sighting. TNR is a simple process. Feral cats are trapped and brought to a clinic for sterilization along with an assortment of vaccinations. After they have sufficiently recovered, they are brought back to their colony. Perhaps the cat will disappear for a short period, but they will ultimately return to enjoy a normal life.

It is estimated that there are over a quarter-million stray cats in Cuyahoga County. Failure to use TNR results in a "vacuum effect" – euthanized or removed cats are backfilled with another feline from the neighborhood and the breeding process continues anew.

The Cleveland Animal Protective League (APL) is making traps and sterilization available at a low cost. They also offer expert advice. The feline population in Cleveland (and the rest of the nation) is reaching crisis proportions. The key to their success in placing animals in loving homes is control of the entire population of domestic cats. A 16 week old female cat goes into heat and the reproductive cycle starts again.

Getting involved is simple. If you are aware of a feral colony in your area, contact the APL. They will do an assessment on the quantity of animals and the difficulty to help the feline community. On the day before sterilization

is scheduled, the trap should be set in a somewhat sheltered area. Once trapped, bring them to the medical facility. Information of low-cost spay/neuter can be found at www.clevelandapl.org.

Last year, the APL assisted TNR of 1200 cats. In April of 2009, they had already helped 700 cats. The TNR program has helped the Cleveland APL cut euthanasia in half over the last four years.

Once mating has been removed from the colony, only a steady supply of food is needed to prevent the remaining elements of annoyance. Alley Cat Allies, an advocacy group dedicated to helping feral cats, suggests feeding the cats at a regular time, during the daylight. Place only enough food for one meal and remove all of the remaining food after 20 minutes to avoid an insect or wildlife problem. A constant source of food will prevent destructive behavior as the animal forages for needed nutrition. A fully sterilized colony actually prevents strays from entering the area.

You can, of course do more. Insuring the animals have a warm place to stay during the winter months will make their outdoor existence habitable. A raised enclosure filled with hay could be considered. The space should be large enough to allow the cats to huddle together to maintain warmth. Be sure the opening is small, only large enough for a cat to enter and prevent predators from disturbing the group. It should be positioned in a protected area. Other tips are available on the Alley Cat Allies website www.alleycat.org.

The plight of stray and feral cats is the direct result of ignorant owners who fail to spay or neuter their pets. Their inaction has caused this chronic problem. Now, we need to deal with an issue almost unheard of twenty years ago. Consider doing what you can to help these unfortunate creatures.

Jeffrey R. Dross with research by Michele J. Ladouceur

Is Your Address Label Correct?

Is your name correct on this newsletter address label? Does it still list the previous owner, or simply state, "Resident?" If it is wrong, do you assume the information does not apply to you? We are your neighbors and we want the mail to speak to you directly, but sometimes we can't...at least not without your help.

Our label list covers over 1,000 properties. There are many homes which have passed to new people over the years, and we may not have the current resident's name. Some homes are rented. We have only the owner's name, from public records. There are often deaths, divorces, and domestic partnership changes. It is nothing personal! We are a volunteer organization and we may have missed a change. You can help us by calling the FHHO office at 216-932-8952 to give us your correct name and phone number. Some of us have been getting incorrectly addressed utility bills for years! The FHHO wants to do better. Please help!

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

BREWSTER – Trina Prufer
BOLTON – Lester & Callie Glenn
BURLINGTON – Timothy Eagan
CHELSEA – Shaan Farmer
GLYNN – Georgette Young
FOREST HILLS – Barbara Reesing
HENLEY – Linda Pollard
MAYFIELD – Ravi Bhasker Patel
MONTICELLO – Javier Montanez
MOUNT VERNON – Barbara Reesing
OAKHILL – Jian & Xinxin Meng
OAKHILL – Tara Wilson
RUTHERFORD – Terry Lewis
SEATON – Crystal Parrish

Use of the FHHO Blue Cottage

Do you need a location for your neighborhood event? Are you looking for a unique place to hold a get-together? Consider the FHHO Cottage located on the corner of Lee Boulevard and Monticello Boulevard.

The cottage, recently nicknamed, "The Blue Cottage" was the original sales office for the Forest Hill development. It was located on the Southeast corner of Brewster Road and Lee Boulevard and later relocated to its current location. For years, it was a real estate office and has served as the home of the Forest Hill Home Owners, Inc since 1957. Many of the architectural elements found in the historic Rockefeller homes are also used in this cottage.

The building features a large front room with a bathroom, boiler room and storage room behind. If you are interested, please contact the FHHO at 932-8952.

Want To Have A Yard Sale?

Before the bad weather hits would be a good time to sell your extra stuff! If you want a highly visible location or don't want strangers around your own house, why not have your yard sale at the FHHO Blue Cottage (Monticello at Lee). This is a busy intersection with a lot of traffic passing by. Put your table(s) and semi-valuables on the lawn and wait for the customers to come teeming in!

- Call Jan to schedule a date, 216-932-4658
- Grounds only, cottage will not be accessible
- \$25 flat fee for use of grounds
- Offer open only to currently contributing FHHO members

"Thanks" to Sally Miller for her tireless calling efforts to obtain street Trustees. Typically, the answer was "I don't have time to help." Neither do the people who DO help, but they FIND time. Thanks to those who accepted. It really requires very little time!

Meet Nate

If you are a recent addition to our neighborhood, you may have already met Nate Wright. As Vice-President of Membership for the Forest Hill Homeowners Association, he attempts to welcome each and every new resident to the area. With a welcoming smile and friendly handshake, Nate may be the very definition of the word, "neighbor."

Nate Wright and his wife Marva move to the neighborhood 23 years ago in 1986. With two children in college and a sixteen year old in high school, they were looking for a new home. After reviewing countless other options, the realtor suggested a home on Monticello in the Forest Hill neighborhood. The Wrights were familiar with the area, having driven through a number of times. They were impressed with the beautiful homes, tree-lined streets and carefully manicured landscapes. It was a place they always dreamed of living. After visiting the home, they knew they had found the place they wanted as their new home.

"We love the tranquility of the neighborhood," says Nate. Whether during a leisurely neighborhood walk, a quiet talk with neighbors or gazing over the expanse of lawn that transitions from neighbor to neighbor, unencumbered by fences, the area exudes calm. "We still love the quiet, after all of these years."

After retiring from General Motors in 1998, Nate had a bit more time on his hands. "Not too much! We may even be busier since retirement than when we were working!" joked Wright. He visited the FHHO Cottage and later noticed an article in the Forest Hill Neighborhood Newsletter that asked, "Can You Help?" He felt it was time to get more involved. "Residents must be involved to maintain the beauty and value of their community" stated Wright. He first volunteered at the annual Burlington lot clean-up. Sally Miller, then Chair of the volunteer search committee asked Nate if he would consider succeeding her as Vice President of Membership. Nate agreed. The task fit perfectly with his philosophy of neighborhood involvement. Since taking the job, he has tried to personally meet as many of the new neighbors as possible. During his introductory chat, he helps the new residents understand the deed restrictions, but more importantly, he extolled the benefits of neighborhood activism. This he feels is key to his charge as VP of Membership. "If a resident is reluctant to get involved," Nate challenges, "Ask yourself why you decided to choose this particular neighborhood. If it is due to the appearance, the look and the feel of the area, how does it stay that way?" If you believe, like Nate Wright that is was due to the diligent work of friends and neighbors, ask the second question. "What can I do to benefit the community and make it as desirable as we found Forest Hill almost a quarter-century ago?"

Nate Wright and countless other long-term residents have sowed the seeds of a vibrant neighborhood. Their struggle, hard work and un-rewarded volunteer hours now give us the place we call home. Next time you see Nate, or any of the Trustees, Officers and Committee members listed in this newsletter, consider thanking them for their selfless dedication to Forest Hill. Thanks Nate! We appreciate your efforts!

Forest Hill is Now on Flickr

You can now view and post Forest Hill related images on the photo-sharing website Flickr. Visit the site and view what your neighbors have posted at <http://www.flickr.com/groups/foreshillhomeowners/>.

We've added some pictures to get started, but we need neighborhood photographers to add more! You can join Flickr for free and post your community related photos for everyone to enjoy. To facilitate searching the group pool, please tag your images with one of the following categories:

- Homes / Events / History / Nature

We look forward to your contributions and plan to recognize the best submissions in the next newsletter.



FHHO President Christopher Hubbert (center) with Cleveland Heights City Council candidate, Cheryl Stevens and Tom Nobbe at the annual Hollister Road Picnic.

Our Thoughts

Our thoughts go out to the family of Chellis Madison, longtime Brandon Road Trustee. Chellis and Mary Madison moved to Forest Hill in 1976. Nearly from the beginning, Chellis was active in and a strong supporter of the home owners association. Along with being Trustee, he served many years as FHHO Treasurer. He knew Robert's Rules of Order and insisted that they be followed at the many meetings in which he participated. An accountant by profession, in recent years, he did quite a bit of substitute teaching at the high school level. Chellis passed away at his home on Friday, August 16, 2009. Neighbors who knew him will remember him kindly and extend their sympathies to his gracious wife, Mary.

CELEBRATE - SEPTEMBER 26!

Have you ever walked door to door asking for a job? John D. Rockefeller did throughout the summer of 1855, and on September 26, he was hired, thus beginning his road to becoming the world's richest man. Until the end of his life, Rockefeller celebrated September 26th as "Job Day."

Come to the Blue Cottage on Saturday, September 26 at 11:00 am, to celebrate with a 50-50 raffle! (Anyone can buy any number of tickets @\$1/ticket). You have an opportunity to win half of the day's proceeds. If the event is successful, we will repeat it in the following months by e-mail notice.... Come celebrate with us! *If you miss September 26, we will have another raffle at the Annual Meeting, November 10th. Proceeds will benefit the maintenance of the Blue Cottage.



Forest Hill Home Owners, Inc.
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www.fhho.org

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Remember the Home Owners Meeting Tuesday November 10, 2009 at A.M. McGregor Home at 7:00 PM