



Forest Hill Home Owners, Inc. is a non-profit organization established more than sixty years ago to benefit the nearly 1000 homes in the Forest Hill neighborhood and to enforce the protective covenants applicable to each property in Forest Hill.

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Hester Lewellen

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Standards**

Jeffrey King

**Vice-President,
Membership**

Sally Miller

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Joyce Rothenberger

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Newsletter Editor

Jeffrey R. Dross

A Message from the FHHO President:

It was with great regret that the Executive Committee of the FHHO Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of Christopher Hubbert, our President of 8 years standing, at our meeting on April 19. Chris has been an advocate for Forest Hill Home Owners and a thoughtful advisor on all legal matters. He has helped us transition to a more technology-based organization, creating and maintaining our website www.FHHO.org, our Facebook page, and creating and updating our data base of residents and contributions. Until a new President can be elected, Trustee Chair Hester Lewellen has stepped in to fill Chris's shoes temporarily.

Meanwhile the work that was started under Chris' leadership is continuing. A newly energized Standards Committee under the leadership of Jeff King (V.P. for Standards) and with members Ted Howard, Mike Reilly, Tony Rupcic, Dale Rothenberger, and Dean Sieck is working to hold residents to the deed restrictions under which Forest Hill operates. We remind all residents of Forest Hill to read these deed restrictions on line www.fhho.org/images/deedr.pdf or pick up a copy at the Blue Cottage. (The Blue Cottage is now open from 10 to 1 on the first Saturday of every month, so we're calling it "First Saturdays"). All Forest Hill residents are bound by these restrictions. Applications to make changes to the exterior of your home are available at the Blue Cottage and need to be sent to the Standards Committee for approval. Some changes may also require approval from your respective city.

We have 35 Forest Hill residents who have volunteered to be on the Board of Trustees. Their names and areas are listed on the website along with their phone numbers www.fhho.org/trustees.asp. Please report problems on your street by calling your trustee or by reporting them directly to me. We are committed to moving swiftly to address all these issues.

We have a Marketing Committee, chaired by Jeff Dross, that is looking into ways to "market the neighborhood as a desirable location by promoting its vitality to a new demographic." Feel free to share your ideas on how to go about this with Jeff or the other members of the committee: David Richardson, Gloria Strong, Andrea Cameron, Ron DeVito, and Mike & Fiona Reilly.

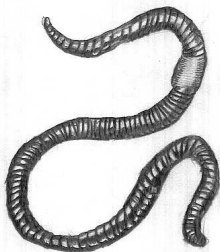
There is another committee working with master gardener Lois Rose to revivify the triangle where Northvale meets Forest Hills Blvd. Under the leadership of Sally Miller (V.P. for Membership), the Triangle Project has been planning the roto-tilling and planting that will make this "abandoned" space a beautiful and xeriscapic masterpiece. (Xeriscaping is landscaping that requires little water, low maintenance, little or no fertilizer and pesticides.) Watch the Triangle for its development this summer.

This is a very exciting time for FHHO. We hope you feel a growing pride in our community and spread the word to anyone who says they've never heard of Forest Hill! Please remember to send in your 2012 contribution if you have not already done so. Everyone working for our community is a volunteer; we have no paid staff. The funds will be going to purchase plants and mulch, as well as maintaining the Cottage and the Burlington lot and supporting the other programs of FHHO.

I look forward to working with you and all the other residents of Forest Hill as we create a strategic plan for the future of our community.

Yours truly,

Hester Lewellen
President pro tem



Earthworms? – Read an engaging story about this interesting creature on page 7.

The Lore of Forest Hill: Rockefeller Rode a Bicycle

By Christopher Hubbert

John D. Rockefeller is usually remembered as a ruthlessly competitive businessman and a strict Baptist, but he had a fun-loving side as well. In the 1890s, when Rockefeller was in his fifties, he was seized by the bicycling craze sweeping Cleveland, and he enjoyed leading family members and guests on rides over the many trails at Forest Hill. He went so far as to study civil engineering in order to design a path that allowed him to cycle up the steep hill from Euclid Avenue to the front door of his Forest Hill home. Rockefeller even learned to do tricks, vaulting onto the seat while someone held the bike steady or holding an open umbrella while riding hands-free.

As this photograph attests, he was still bicycling in 1913, when he turned 74. The slight smile captures a side of the oil magnate not often seen. Cycling aficionados will note that Rockefeller is posing with an unusual chainless bike. Pierce-Arrow, an automobile manufacturer based in Buffalo, New York, was better known for its expensive luxury cars, but also made bicycles, including the shaft-driven model pictured here. Perhaps he wanted to avoid dirtying his pant leg with chain grease — Rockefeller was always appropriately attired and purchased a variety of sporty riding outfits.

The 1817 European “velocipede” was the first bicycle-like vehicle, although it was propelled directly by the rider’s feet pushing off from the ground. Throughout most of the 1800s bicycles remained difficult to ride and were enjoyed mostly by young men as a sport. However, by the turn of the century the “safety bicycle” (so named because it was much easier to ride, resulting in fewer dangerous accidents) had arrived and popularized bike riding as a practical mode of transportation.

The photo is from the Library of Congress New York World-Telegram and the Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection. If you haven’t seen the incredible digital collection of the Library of Congress, visit LOC.gov. If you have missed an issue of Lore of Forest Hill, you can read previous articles on our website. Just click on Lore under the History menu at FHHO.org.

Congratulations Hollister!

For the second year in a row, Hollister Road had the largest percent of residents contributing to Forest Hill Home Owners besting last year’s percentage to reach 54.5% of the street! They also donated the largest average per-person contribution. Past winner Chelsea Road came in an admirable 2nd place with 44.9% participation. Rumson Road residents came in second in donation average.

We realize that there is disparity among streets sizes and it is difficult to equate participation, nonetheless we appreciate the efforts of these residents and ALL residents that support the work of your neighborhood organization! Together, we can make a difference.



Find out why Forest Hill’s first resident, John D. Rockefeller is smiling!

Cleveland Heights Community Improvement Awards

The City of Cleveland Heights held its 36th Annual Community Improvement Awards last fall, recognizing individual homeowners, business owners, and organizations that have worked to improve their properties and contribute to the vitality and beauty of the city. The winners were chosen from properties nominated by community members. Forest Hill homeowners, Gary and Beryl Tishkoff on Brewster Road and Trisha Namy and Nick Trent on Rumson Road were Tender Loving Care Award recipients. TLC awards are bestowed on properties that are meticulously maintained year after year or that have been extensively re-landscaped.

In addition, Elsa Johnson, active in the East Cleveland Parks Association was awarded the Sustainability Award for planting wildflowers in Forest Hill Park.

Congratulations all and thank you for making Forest Hill a better place to live!

Cleveland Heights Announces Street Repair Schedule for 2012

Each year, the city of Cleveland Heights announces the streets intended for repair during the warm-weather season. Following are the streets in Forest Hill that will be repaved.

- Forest Hills Boulevard – From Hollister Road to Cleveland Heights city line
- Lee Road – From Mayfield Road to Monticello Boulevard
- Mt. Vernon Boulevard – From Monticello Boulevard to Forest Hills Boulevard
- Stuart Road – From Carver Road to North Taylor Road

In addition, the long awaited repair of Taylor Road started in mid-April and is expected to finish in late September. Access will be maintained in both northbound and southbound directions. During the first phase of the project, the westbound lanes will be repaired while all traffic will populate the eastbound lanes. Midway through the project road use will switch. All work will start at 7:00 AM and go through 3:30 PM weekdays only. Upon completion, the traffic signal at Taylor Road and Hollister Road will be removed permanently.

If you have any questions on the Taylor Road project you may contact the city of Cleveland Heights at 216-691-7311 or ODOT Public Information at 216-584-2005 or the ODOT Construction Office at 216-584-2152.

Welcome!

We're glad you're here!

- Forest Hill Boulevard Resident, Cyndi Wilson
- Eastwick Residents, Barbara Jean Price and her sister, Ann Smith
- Hereford resident, Michael Mc Gruder
- Brandon resident, Teamus Hudson
- Monticello resident, Jimmy and Iris McGee
- Bolton resident, Barbara Danforth
- Brandon resident, Wendy Horn

Forest Hill Swim Club

Remember, there is a members-only swimming pool in the community. Contact the Forest Hill Swim Club at 2333 Lee Boulevard or 216-321-5067 for membership information.

1940 Census Available

Do you ever wonder who lived in your house in the past?

Recently, the United States Archives released findings from the 1940 census. There is a statutory 72 years wait before the release of census information to protect the privacy of those included. The census was conducted in April of 1940, so this is a unique opportunity to explore a snapshot of life in America at that time. Based on this report, the population of the continental United States was 131,669,275.

Over 100,000 census enumerators were hired to go door-to-door to every home in America and personally conduct an interview with the inhabitants. The information was hand-recorded on 3.8 million pages which the National Archives photographed and posted on-line. A firm is now involved in the challenge of digitally recording this information so information can be retrieved based on name.

The Forest Hill Historic Preservation Society recently did a review of the Forest Hill Historic District and found a neighborhood of well educated residents in homes well above the area average. A full report of their research will soon be published in the Forest Hill Historic Preservation Society Newsletter. To learn more, visit www.fhhs.org.

This is a fascinating glimpse into our neighborhood. For more details see 1940census.archives.gov. ED-100 (EC) and ED-29 (CH) covered our area.

Barlē Soup & Sandwich Opens

In the mood for a hearty bowl of soup, a nicely prepared sandwich or a healthy salad? Jim Barle, owner of the Heights Rockefeller building just opened a new shop that serves just that! Stop by from 11:00AM to 6:00PM to sample some of the freshly made foods and gander at the fabulously remodeled interior and old photos at 2479 Lee Boulevard. Cal 216-371-3050.

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/images/deedr.pdf <<http://www.fhho.org/images/deedr.pdf>

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

Notes from the Forest Hill Historic Preservation Society

Any idea which city in America holds the following titles?

- Top Destination City in the US – Conde Naste
- #2 Best City to Visit – Travel + Leisure Magazine
- Best Preserved City in the US – (multiple designations)
- Best B&B's in the US – (Multiple designations)

In addition, this city carries the following accolades:

- Best City for Tech Jobs - Forbes
- Top 50 City in Which to Do Business – Market Watch
- Best Mid-Sized City for Job Growth – New Geography
- #1 Coolest Small City in America – GQ Magazine

Charleston, South Carolina.

What? The first four designations might make sense, but, if we listen to some people, historic cities are only good for tourism; they do not work as livable cities and surely cannot function in the new high-tech world. I guess someone is wrong. While this historic city first founded in 1690 has managed to keep its heritage and preserve history in order to share them with the visiting public, it has also attracted business, tech jobs and young people to serve its residents. This is just the type of one-two punch every city desires.

Charleston has shown us that to succeed, you need not tear down historic buildings, and you do not need to sprawl out to the farmland suburbs to convince people to raise a family. Growth and history are not incongruous.

The same thing could happen in our area. A lot of good things are now occurring. We have finally eliminated a collection of county employees who had no other concern, but for themselves. We have elected a new county administrator that seems genuinely driven by desire to improve the area. While quiet and stealth-like, Mayor Jackson of Cleveland has initiated some progressive programs; most notably of late is a new plan to overhaul the crumbling inner-city school system. Even in East Cleveland, voters conscientiously avoided the re-election of another clown-like politician and replaced the decade-long parade of disgrace with a progressive clinician dedicated to righting a too-long lopsided ship. If Mayor Gary Norton can survive the entrenched old-guard on council, he appears to have the skills necessary to make East Cleveland more viable.

Now, it is our turn. We must fight diligently to protect our area's history. We must help developers understand the value of an older building and the reason why it is in the best interest of all to keep these places viable. Forest Hill is uniquely positioned to gain from this movement, provided we continue to care for our homes, maintain our streets and diligently support our neighborhood. When that time comes, we win! Do what you can. It is bound to benefit you in the long run. Perhaps some day, we will become the northern-Charleston. It could happen!

-Jeffrey R. Dross

(Jeff is Vice-President of FHHS. 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.)

Homeowner Fees

Last year, new fees were voted on and approved at the Trustees' Meeting.

Application Fees: A basic fee of \$30 will be assessed for exterior alterations and additions. Fees for additional applications will be \$10. (Fee is waived for contributors.)

Approval Violation: Failure to secure a permit for alterations or additions will result in fines, not to exceed \$500. Continuing to work on a project after FHHS has notified the resident of a violation will result in a fine, not to exceed \$100 per day.

Maintenance Violations: If a maintenance violation is not corrected, the assessed fine is not to exceed \$100 per day.

Historic FHHS Newsletters Now Available on Website

We recently introduced a new version of our website, www.FHHS.org, with improved navigation and new pages. For example, you can now read issues of our newsletters from the 1950s at the Newsletter Archive page. Forest Hill Home Owners has published a newsletter bringing news of the neighborhood to its residents for more than fifty years. The newsletter has gone through numerous iterations, including the *Forest Hill Informer* and *Forest Hill Messenger*. The oldest newsletter in our archives is from October 1954, but it doesn't appear to be the first issue. Do you have an old issue of the Forest Hill newsletter you would like to share? If so, please email us at President@FHHS.org. Early issues of the newsletter offer a fascinating glimpse into the development of the community. Visit the website often because we plan to post more early newsletters for you to peruse.

First Saturdays

To allow Forest Hill homeowners better access to the FHHS organization, the headquarters Blue Cottage located at 2419 Lee Boulevard, on the corner Monticello Boulevard will be open from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM on the first Saturday of every month. We're calling this First Saturday, so everyone remembers.

A FHHS Trustee will be on hand to answer any of your questions, accept applications for home repair approvals and show you around the historic structure. We would also love to encourage your participation in the organization, so check the calendar and stop by the cottage. We'd love to see and meet you!

An Hour-A-Year Volunteer

Our Forest Hill Homeowners association relies on volunteers. As homeowners, we voluntarily contribute dues to help pay for the maintenance and taxes on properties we jointly own. Among those are the Blue Cottage, the property known as the Triangle at the juncture of Northvale and Forest Hills Blvd. and the woodlands bordering Burlington and Mayfield Roads.

Beyond this, we need volunteers to serve as our Trustees or concerned residents who welcome new residents on their streets and can be reached by neighbors who need information or have questions about the Forest Hill community or our Deed Restrictions.

The Board of Trustees elects officers for the Executive Board that runs the day-to-day business of the association. They too are volunteers who give many hours of their time.

Our Forest Hill community is a beautiful one, maintaining it takes many hands. Please consider becoming a volunteer for an hour this year for one of the following Forest Hill Projects.

Blue Cottage inside cleaning, outside garden care and debris pickup first Saturday of each month. The cottage is open from 10-1 and we are requesting one hour of help.

Spring and fall leaf raking and debris pickup of Burlington property. The annual Burlington Lot clean-up is scheduled for May 5, 2012 this year from 9-12. Come meet your area neighbors! (Rain Date is May 12.)

Planting and maintaining a garden on the Triangle property on Forest Hills Blvd. A planting get-together is planned for Saturday May 19, 2012 – Mark your calendars!

Assistance as a greeter for Annual Meeting on November 13. More details to follow on this important yearly function.

You may respond by emailing Sally Miller at smiller3375@msn.com, calling her at 216-321-2516 or indicating your interest when you send in your annual contribution.

Heading Off on Vacation?

If you're leaving for vacation, along with arranging a pet sitter, stopping the mail and newspaper, don't forget to call the police. The police will schedule additional trips past the house and pay extra attention to the area. Call Cleveland Heights Police at 216-321-1234 or the East Cleveland Police Department at 216-451-1234. Tell them this is a "non-emergency" issue.

FHHO Contributors

After publishing the Autumn 2011 edition of the Forest Hill News, contributions to the FHHO continued to arrive. Following are the contributors omitted from that list. Thanks to all for supporting your homeowner's organization!

Blackmore Road

Anthony & Judy Wong

Bolton Road

Mozell & Verna Greer

Brandon Road

Bobette Morrow

Brewster Road

Henry Travers Newton, Jr.

Burlington Road

Charles & Rosanna Sprague

DeeWillie & Barbara Reaves

Dr. Jess & Gloria Young

Carver Road

Frances Evans

Chelsea Road

Ashley Smith

Harold & Dorothy Rambo

Martin Golnick & Kelly Saige

Mace & Frances Mentch

Cleviden Road

Charles & Bernice Simpson

Laura Gay Hamilton

Fenemore Road

Marsha Cappy & Stephen Sileo

Forest Hills Boulevard

Jeffrey King & Delores Hasan

Glynn Road

Tamara Shareef & Dewitt Williams

Henley Road

Astead Green

Christopher & Adele Kious

Louise Bragg

Hereford Road

Chester Boyce

Emmett & Billie Saunders

Hollister Road

Laurie Lake

George & Minnie Williams

Bruce R. Menopace

Mayfield Road

Dorothy Broz

Mount Vernon Boulevard

Frank & Elfie Ricchi

Newbury Drive

Dr Dalma & Lajos Takacs

Northvale Boulevard

Charles & Elaine DeMore

William & Frances Smoot

Oakhill Road

Edward & Marilyn Bourguignon

Rumson Road

Raymond Liu & Caryn Tong

Robert & Joanne Bielek

Rutherford Road

Isaiah and Mary Alice Rucker

Seaton Road

Ralph Starling & Chris Holley-Starling

Westover Road

Linda Johnston



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Consider the “Lowly” Earthworm

By Christopher Hubbert

No less a scientific light than Charles Darwin wrote of earthworms that “It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world, as have these lowly organized creatures.” (Of course this was not in Darwin’s famous *On the Origin of Species*, but instead from *Formation of Vegetable Mould Through the Action of Worms, with Observations on Their Habits*, which became the definitive work on worms for decades.) We seldom consider the “lowly” earthworms living underfoot in our lawns and gardens, but these simple creatures are actually quite remarkable.

For example, an earthworm that is cut in two can easily re-grow its lost portion. It is even theoretically possible for two whole earthworms to form from a single worm that is cut in half. Scientists are studying the earthworm’s amazing regenerative abilities in an effort to help doctors heal human injuries.

Earthworms also lead rather interesting sex lives. Earthworms are simultaneous hermaphrodites, meaning that every worm has both testes that produce sperm and ovaries to produce eggs — basically the worm is both mother and father! As a result, after mating both worms form a cocoon containing fertilized eggs from which tiny earthworms eventually emerge.

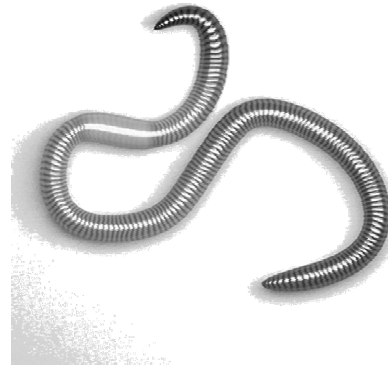
Earthworms don’t have lungs and breathe through their skin, but this only works if the earthworm is moist. If the environment becomes too dry, hot or cold for the earthworm’s liking, the worm enters a state of aestivation. This dormant state is similar to hibernation, but even more extreme, with no significant activity. When conditions improve, the worm revives.

With these amazing abilities, it’s not surprising that there are a lot of earthworms — estimates range from 250,000 to 1.7 million worms per acre, and the biomass of all those worms may equal ten times the weight of the animals living aboveground. Each earthworm is an eating machine, ingesting organic matter (such as dead leaves and other plant matter), digesting it in the worm’s long gut and excreting waste. The worms’ castings are rich in nitrogen and help fertilize the soil by making the nitrogen locked in organic matter available to the next generation of plants. Earthworms also burrow through the soil while searching for food, creating channels that improve drainage and aeration. And all those worms form an important part of the base of the food chain, providing meals for birds like robins and starlings and mammals such as moles, skunks and even foxes.

Despite their ubiquity, the earthworms in Forest Hill are actually an invasive species. Any native species of earthworm that may have been living in Northeast Ohio were extirpated when glaciers covered the Great Lakes region 11,000 to 14,000 years ago during the last ice

age. After the glaciers retreated, the northern hardwood forests developed over thousands of years as worm-free ecosystems. Although earthworms survived in the unglaciated south, they move slowly, less than half a mile in a century, and would not yet have reached Northeast Ohio (assuming that native southern species of earthworm could even survive here). Instead, the earthworms of Forest Hill arrived with European settlers who brought plantings and soil (often used as ships’ ballast) from Europe. Although earthworms are good for our lawns and gardens, they may be harmful to our native forests because earthworms devour the leaf litter that would otherwise cover the forest floor. This in turn eliminates some understory plants and the microclimate that animals adapted to this environment rely upon.

The impetus and primary source for this article was the “How Earthworms Work” episode of the humorous and informative podcast *Stuff You Should Know* with Chuck Bryant and Josh Clark. For more information about earthworms (and a host of other topics), visit HowStuffWorks.com and type “earthworm” into the handy search bar. To learn about the threat that earthworms pose to our hardwood forests, visit the Great Lakes Worm Watch website at GreatLakesWormWatch.org.



Is A Dead Car Littering Your Street?

An inoperable car in a driveway need not be tolerated. You have recourse. A simple call to Cleveland Heights Housing Inspection Services will set action in motion. They can be reached at 216-291-5900. An inspector will be dispatched to the location to investigate. You DO NOT need to provide your name! The Housing Department of the City of East Cleveland may be reached at 216-681-2415.





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

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Remember, your property is covered by Deed Restrictions! Contact FHHO if you are planning changes!



Have you sent your yearly dues to
 FHHO?
 Don't make us resort to panning for
 gold to continue operating the
 organization. We need your help now
 and every year, partner!

Fill in the form below and mail it to FHHO, 2419 Lee Blvd., Cleveland Heights, 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 do something meaningful for the neighborhood; call me! _____