



A Good Place to Live and Grow

HISTORIC FOREST HILL COMMUNITY NEWS

www.fhho.org

SPRING 2020

Volunteer Opportunities

House and Grounds Committee: Planning activities for summer to maintain Blue Cottage grounds and plant flower gardens in public spaces.

Membership Committee: Meeting new residents and introducing them to Forest Hill.

Fund Raising: Planning fund raising events to generate money for Blue Cottage repairs.

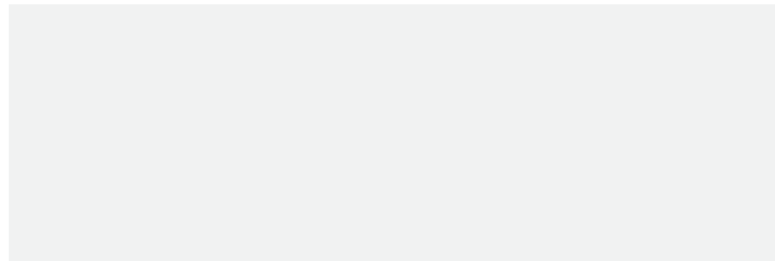
FHHO is Turning 70 Years Young

On June 13, 1950 the state of Ohio approved the articles of incorporation for Forest Hill Home Owners, Inc. If you have an idea about how to celebrate our anniversary, please email your idea to Gretchen Mettler at president@fhho.org.



Forest Hill Home Owners, Inc.
2419 Lee Boulevard
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

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HOME OWNERS
PERMIT NO. 1112



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Dear Residents of Forest Hill,

I am writing this letter on April 16, well into what the earth's tilt and orbit around the sun label as spring. Yet this morning we woke up to a significant layer of snow on our lawns. At least it was a sunny day.

In this 70th Anniversary Year of this organization, the COVID-19 social distancing requirements caused the cancellation of our first Listening Session for 2020. However, we still want to solicit your views on initiatives FHHO should engage in and support. Look for an electronic survey to households for which we have email addresses, or paper surveys dropped off in mailboxes, and perhaps telephone calls as well to enable us to understand your views. When you send your donations in the enclosed envelope be sure to update your phone number and email address.

We were able to do our first FHHO main streets trash pickup on Saturday, April 4 for a few hours. Volunteers wore bright yellow safety vests with the FHHO logo to identify us. We gathered from both the East Cleveland and the Cleveland Heights sides to work in appropriately socially distanced groups. We plan to do more clean ups. If you would like to volunteer please email me at president@FHHO.org. Read more about this successful event in the adjoining column.

In our March meeting we approved changing the name of the Standards Committee to Forest Hill Preservation Committee. The word "Preservation" emphasizes the value of the neighborhood's historic aesthetic. This name change has been forwarded to the Bylaws Committee for incorporation into bylaws updates. As always, if you are planning any external projects for



FHHO Residents Gather for Spring Clean-Up But Still Socially Distanced

Organizing a group of residents for any project presents challenges especially so during the COVID-19 self isolation period. Mark Madland, FHHO trustee, successfully organized a much needed trash clean-up on neighborhood main streets on Saturday, April 4th.

Mark distributed all the necessary safety gear which included maps, safety vests, grabbers, trash bags and buckets. Streets were assigned to teams and



instruction was given to maintain social distancing. The crew picked up trash from Lee Boulevard, Monticello, Northvale, and Forest Hills Boulevard and the end product was hauled away for disposal.

Thanks to Mark's volunteers: **Gretchen Mettler** (president), **Sam Kohn** (secretary), **Tony Rupcic** (treasurer), and **Samantha Baxter** (webmaster) who were joined by **Pat Rolfe**, **Ann and Mohammad Ghazy** (pictured above), **Ismael Ghazy**, **Brita Thielen**, **Bryan Thomas**, **Fran Mench**, and **Catherine Wells**.

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Announcing the New Preservation Committee



The Board of Trustees, in an effort to be more responsive to our core purpose and to our member needs, has unanimously decided to change the name of the "Standards Committee" to the "Preservation Committee." This change reflects the board's desire to preserve the high quality and standards upon which this beautiful historic community was designed and built.

Other changes have been made to the application review and approval process. Applications for exterior alterations are still required for review and approval. The fee for applications has been discontinued, but contributions are still fully appreciated and needed. All donors will be listed as contributors on the FHHO web site.

The Preservation Committee will continue to offer assistance and recommendations for your exterior projects. **Tom Winston** will continue to serve FHHO as the Preservation Committee Chair. Address any questions or concerns to tomwinston3rd@yahoo.com

Let's Each do Our Part to Welcome Spring in Our Yards

Forest Hill was planned by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. as a residential community using garden principles such as winding roads and spacious lots. Now is the time to tidy your yard. Pull weeds while the ground is still soft and workable. Don't forget to eliminate weeds between sidewalks and alongside curbs. Do your part to keep Forest Hill in its original park-like grandeur.





Continued from *Dear Residents*

your home, please consult the FHHO web page for guidance on obtaining permits. Members of the Preservation Committee are available for consultation on period appropriate upgrades and restorations.

We have beautiful light heather grey T-shirts in various sizes with the FHHO logo emblazoned on the front available for sale at \$20 each. You can see them modeled on various board members as we walk through the neighborhood.

The board is still meeting, electronically now, to develop ideas for how to welcome new residents into the community and engage longtime residents who have never felt invited in. Please do not hesitate to offer your ideas for community engagement to various board members; our contact information is on the web site. **We do not entertain the words “we can’t”; we remain a “we’ll get it done” group.**

Gretchen Mettler,
President, FHHO

About our president...

Gretchen Mettler moved to Cleveland Heights in 1985 to begin her career as a Certified Nurse Midwife at Booth Memorial Hospital after completing her Masters of Science degree. She has also provided midwifery services for Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services and University Hospitals of Cleveland. From 1997 until 2018 she was the Program Director for the Nurse Midwife Education Program at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing of CWRU.

Since January 2018 she has worked 3 days a week for the Student Health Clinic at CWRU, providing women’s health care to female and transgender students. During this time of sheltering at home, she has been doing telehealth counseling for off-campus students recuperating from COVID-19, in addition to counseling for women’s health issues and writing prescriptions--just no pap smears!

Published by Forest Hill Home Owners, Inc.

2419 Lee Blvd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118 216.932.8952 www.fhho.org

Editor In Chief: President Gretchen Mettler Newsletter Chair and Graphics: Sharon Leary

Editor: Hester Lewellen Contributors: Judy Charlick, Tom Winston

Please submit articles for consideration for our next edition to president@fhho.org.

Celebrate 70 Years of Forest Hill Pride with our New Logo T-Shirt



\$20
S/M/L/XL

Support your historic neighborhood by wearing your new T-shirt for all to see. Designed by the 2020 Board of Trustees and printed locally, this shirt shows that you love your neighborhood.

(Quantities are limited.)

COLOR: Light Heather Grey T-shirt with green and black logo

SIZES: S M L XL

FABRIC CONTENT: 99% Heavy Weight Cotton (6 oz.), pre-shrunk

HOW TO PURCHASE

Deposit \$20 cash or a check made out to FHHO in an envelope in the mail slot at the Blue Cottage at 2419 Lee Blvd. Or order with PayPal at fhho.org.

Be sure to indicate your name, address, and size. Your T-Shirt will be delivered to your home.

Crew Cleans Up Forest Hills Boulevard

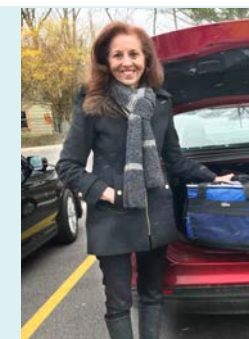
Also on Saturday, April 4th (see Spring Clean-Up, page 1) **Patrick Kenny** organized a trash pick up crew for Forest Hills Blvd., the main road that leads up into the FHHO neighborhood from Euclid Ave. and cuts through Forest Hill Park. Patrick's volunteers included **John Satola, Tracey Kirksey, Ron Ross, Georgia Lloyd and Eda Daniel.**

Eda reported the success of this project on NextDoor "I picked up as much litter, broken glass, and...bags of trash as possible. It was satisfying work on a warm, beautiful, sunny morning. Great way to get fresh air and exercise. Plus we got some distant socializing thrown in for good measure."

Please look on NextDoor for Patrick to organize volunteers for future community clean-ups.

Meet Our New Webmaster

FHHO is happy to introduce **Samantha Baxter** as FHHO's new Webmaster. Samantha moved into her historic Rockefeller home along with her husband and daughter in 2019. Samantha says that she loves her beautiful home and was very attracted to its original period details such as the quarry tiles, original windows and interior hardware details. FHHO is very fortunate to have Samantha onboard with her eight years of experience as a software developer. Samantha anticipates redesigning the website with a new graphic design, more photographs, and more information that is easier to find.



Local Hero, Local Kindness

Even though the Shaker Heights “Meals on Wheels” program for seniors has temporarily closed during the pandemic, the Cleveland Heights program is continuing to provide low cost meal delivery service. Forest Hill’s own **Marlene Perez** is the volunteer coordinator for Meals on Wheels in Cleveland Heights and leads a skeleton crew who remains dedicated to continuing services throughout the COVID-19 self-isolation period.

Meals on Wheels is a privately funded community service organization with the mission of providing low cost lunches and dinners to seniors who qualify, primarily the home-bound. They provide a full lunch and a full hot supper four days a week plus one frozen meal for the weekend and purchase their food from the McGregor Home on Lee Blvd. in East Cleveland.

Marlene brings the food to the Fairmount Presbyterian Church where volunteers pack the meals for distribution. Then drivers and other volunteers deliver the meals to Cleveland Hts. homes before noon, following all pandemic social distancing precautions.

If you are interested in volunteering either now or after the pandemic subsides, please call **Marlene Perez** at **216-571-6659**.

NOTE: Meals on Wheels is not available in East Cleveland.

Welcome to Our Neighborhood

We extend a hearty welcome to these new neighbors:

Thomas and Louise Rossman, Cleviden
John Stuart, Eastwick
Debra and Virgil Anderson, Hereford
Mary Patricia Wilson, Hollister
Scott Millhorn, Newbury
Nasir Ahmad, Rumson
Antonio Meehan, Rumson
Curlee Cullen, Rutherford



Do You or Someone You Know in Forest Hill Need a "Neighbor-to-Neighbor Check-In" During the COVID-19 Isolation?

If so, Judy Charlick and Sue Kenney would like to hear from you. You can call **Judy** at **216-408-4077** or email **Sue** at sjkenney@sbcglobal.net. They, along with their volunteers, have already reached out to most of the Forest Hill homes between March 28 and April 5. It has been their goal to reach out to nearly 1,000 FHHO homes to make certain that no neighbor feels alone or has unmet needs. The volunteers worked very hard and in fact one caller, Sue Kenney's sister-in-law Carol DeLillo Kenney, made 200 calls herself!

Without exception, people receiving these calls were grateful for the outreach. Typical responses were: “Thank you so much for calling”; “That’s a wonderful thing you are doing”; “It’s great to know there are people in the neighborhood who care enough to call”; and a few said, “You don’t know how important this call is to me.” Unfortunately, they were unable to reach all 935 FHHO residents due to contacts which need updating.

This isn't the first time that FHHO residents **Sue Kenney** and **Judy Charlick** have organized volunteers to reach out to residents in our community. Their work together on the “Aging Well at Home Resource Guide” which began in 2019 continues to be an appreciated resource.

FHHO appreciates the kind hearted-ness that led to this caring endeavor and would like to thank: **Sue** and **Jack Kenney**, **Carol DiLillo Kenney**, **Bob** (trustee) and **Judy Charlick**, **Rosanna Sprague**, **Sherri Jones**, **Jamain Owens**, **Beryl Tishkoff** (trustee) and **Tom Winston**, (trustee).