



Forest Hill Home Owners, Inc.
2419 Lee Boulevard
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www.fhho.org



FOREST HILL RESIDENTS QUARTERLY UPDATE

MARCH 2017



FHHO Annual Meeting Speaker: Sally Levine

By Pete Grebus



Sally Levine

The theme of 2016's FHHO Annual Meeting, Aging-in-Place, was complemented by our keynote speaker, architect Sally Levine. Sally L. Levine is a nationally recognized expert on Universal Design. If we think of aging-in-place as a way to arrange the services and care we need as we age, Universal Design is an approach that

ensures that our homes continue to meet our needs as our abilities decrease.

Aging-in-place recognizes that our physical well-being doesn't move along a straight line. Whether one breaks a leg skiing, suffers from carpal tunnel syndrome, or sprains one's ankle, our homes need to accommodate us. Our homes also need to change as we have children, or as our parents age. As we age, we want to continue to be self-reliant, want people to be able to visit us, to care for ourselves to the extent possible, and to remain in our homes, surrounded by our neighbors and friends.

Traditionally, homes were designed for the majority of users - the average person. When designing for aging-in-place, homes must be designed for the needs of the minority - those with fewer abilities. While those of us in the majority can adapt to the needs of the minority, those in the minority are unable to adjust to the abilities

of the majority. Variation in ability is not special, but ordinary and affects most of us for some part of our lives. If design works for people with disabilities, it works better for everyone.

Usability and aesthetics are mutually compatible. Planning for aging-in-place allows simple and inexpensive modifications to the home, and a well thought out aging-in-place design will result in an increase in the home's resale value. Remember that when you use Universal Design principles to accommodate and plan for variations, everyone wins.

Currently, Ms. Levine is a lecturer at Case Western Reserve University, a visiting faculty associate in the University's Center for Health and Aging, and a lecturer in the master's program at the Maxine Goodman Levin School of Urban Planning at Cleveland State University. She is a member of the Cleveland AIA, the Boston Society of Architects and a board member of the Institute for Human Centered Design. As a LEED Accredited Professional, Ms. Levine matches her human-centered design work with a deep commitment to sustainability and the environment.

For more information about Universal Design, see www.universaldesign.com. To contact Sally Levine, email her at sally.levine@case.edu or visit her website at www.levinea-d.com



President's Letter



Pete Grebus

In November, we gathered for the annual meeting. Over 100 Forest Hill residents came together to receive an update on the activities of the FHHO in 2016, and to voice concerns about fair representation among trustees and the executive committee. To this end, the traditional vote for the slate of trustees was delayed. We'll be voting in May for the 2017 trustees, selecting the 50 trustees that receive the most votes. If you're interested in running for a trustee position, please contact me at president@fhho.org, and I'll make sure you receive an application. See p.3 for more information.

While the FHHO will continue to focus on standards enforcement, we've seen some significant progress on starting an aging-in-place village. The theme for this year's annual meeting was Universal Design, which is an approach to designing or modifying living spaces to accommodate us as we age or need to address restricted mobility. I like to think of Universal Design as the interior counterpart to aging-in-place. Aging-in-place villages are created to provide services to community members with limited mobility – services that might include transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, prescription pick-up, dog-walking, health check-ups, and connections to local organizations. An extension of an aging-in-place village could include property management, dovetailing nicely with standards

adherence. Villages may be staffed by paid employees – a concierge, drivers – or may be volunteer based. Regardless of approach, the creation and maintenance of a Village is not free. We're currently in the process of determining the initial range of services, and the cost to provide them.

Standards violations continue to be a hot button. FHHO has a strong record of encouraging home owners to address violations, but of course, there are a small number of "eyesore" houses that continue to tarnish our community. The approach to addressing each of these is unique and complex. FHHO is working with the Land Bank, Senator Sherrod Brown's office, Cuyahoga County, and Cleveland Heights in attempts to resolve the status of these properties.

As with all volunteer organizations, FHHO can always use more hands. It's clear that the problems that face Forest Hill go beyond the ability of a small Executive Committee and appointed Chairs to fully address. To be blunt, we need your help. Over the coming year, we'll be setting the bar higher for trustees, as described at www.fhho.org/trusteeform. We'll also be asking our residents to "lean forward" and take an active role in the welfare of Forest Hill. The accomplishments of 2016 were significant, but with your help, we can make 2017 an even more transformative year for Forest Hill.



Boulevard Elementary Outdoor Classroom

By Pete Grebus

In the Spring of 2016, FHHO, in partnership with Boulevard Elementary, secured grant funding through the Future Heights mini-grant program to expand and enhance the school's outdoor learning classroom. As part of the grade school STEM curriculum, students are encouraged to understand their local ecosystem, and to study native plants and animals.

For more information, go to www.fhho.org/boulevard



FHHO 2016 Accomplishments

In addition to the events and projects undertaken by FHHO in 2016, we saw a year of great accomplishments, including:

- Launched a state-of-the-art website - www.fhho.org
- Discussed the Medusa building with Motorcars, which resulted in improved landscaping
- Organized grounds clean-up day for Cottage and Burlington lot
- Connected with University Circle, Inc. to support marketing of FH and connect to CDC for development purposes
- Connected with Noble Neighbors and Boulevard Neighbors to expand lines of communication
- Most successful Monster Garage Sale ever
- Created signage "package" for CH ABR, and will be gathering resident signatures for approval
- Helped a member return to her home, clean up the property, and prepare for paint, removing a long-standing eyesore property from FH
- Connected with Future Heights as partner-in-general, fiscal partner for specific grants/initiatives, and neighborhood mini-grants, AV equipment
- Re-registered covenants with the state
- Escalated torn up sidewalk at Eastwick & Newbury, repaired by Dominion
- Worked with CH to remove non-operable cars, repair light poles, remove dead deer, maintain untended city property, and swim club exterior
- Began citing home owners for non-approved structures based on member complaints, with majority resolved quickly
- Pursuing homes with flagrant long-term violations with the expectation of taking a small number of home owners to court
- Contacted bank-owned properties to advise as to standards requirements
- Working with resident to repair/restore a slate roof
- Advocating on behalf of a resident to ensure her insurance company repairs her wood shake roof appropriately
- Threw a donor party to thank FHHO donors for continued support



Everyone Fell for Forest Hill

By Kate Lewis and Eileen Smotzer

The inaugural "Fall for Forest Hill 5K" run/walk held on Sunday, October 16, was a tremendous success! Nearly 100 runners and walkers of all ages and abilities gathered in Forest Hill Park on a gorgeous fall day to enjoy a scenic course winding through our historic park.

The goal of the event was to do something positive to bring the community together, highlight our amazing neighborhood, and raise money for the park. By all accounts, all three goals were accomplished. We are pleased to share that we will present the East Cleveland Parks Association with a check for \$2,000!

For more information, go to www.fhho.org/5k



2017 FHHO Trustee Elections

By Pete Grebus

Nominations: Any Forest Hill resident owner interested in becoming an FHHO trustee must complete a trustee candidate form, available on the FHHO website (www.fhho.org/trusteeform). The completed form must be delivered to FHHO via email or snail mail by April 27, 2017.

Voting: Voting will take place on May 11, 2017 from 5 to 8 PM at the Blue Cottage. Anyone not available during that time window may pick up a proxy ballot from the Blue Cottage on Saturday, May 6 between 10 AM and 1 PM and turn it back in at the Cottage at any time before the May 11 election.

Results: Results will be published on the FHHO website and in the following Newsletter.

How to Comply with FHHO Standards

By Dale Rotherberger, Standards Committee Co-chair

All Forest Hill homeowners are reminded that any modification to the exterior of the home or the yard requires the approval of the FHHO Standards Committee. This requirement is found in the covenants that are part of the deed of every Forest Hill home. These deed restrictions protect and bind us as Forest Hill homeowners. The standards and standards application forms can be found at www.fhho.org.

Prior approval is required for: roofing, windows, siding, and entry and garage doors. In addition, approval is required

for fences, walkways/steps, driveways, patios, decks or other exterior alteration. Structural alterations to the home also require FHHO approval. FHHO approval is required in addition to any required city permit. Maintenance of your home and property does not require approval, if the maintenance does not include a modification to the original design.

For more information, go to www.fhho.org/standards-overview

FHHO & the Cuyahoga Land Bank

The Cuyahoga County Land Bank is a non-profit, government-purposed entity tasked to strategically acquire blighted properties, and return them to productive use through rehabilitation, sale to new private owners, demolition, and to support community goals through collaborations with Cuyahoga's individual communities, governments, lenders, and individual property owners.

For more information, go to www.fhho.org/landbank



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