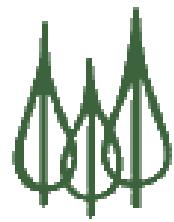


The Forester

www.fpcivic.org



Volume 62 Issue 02 (online only) Forest Park Civic Association

FEBRUARY 2026



Ready to Go in 2026

At the January 2026 Forest Park Civic Association Meeting those officers, committee chairs, and Area Reps were sworn in for another year of service to the neighborhood. State Rep. Munira Andullahi, (front row, far left) who is also a Forest Park resident performed the swearing in process for all members. Thanks to the many volunteers who have committed to keep FPCA going in 2026. There is still plenty of time for your help or assistance. Contact any of the board members listed on Page 2 of every Forester. They can suggest to you simple ways you can help your community.

February 2026 FPCA Meeting

Tuesday January 10th, 7 pm

Epworth United Methodist Church

There will be no Block watch meeting prior to this meeting.

The Forester will be ONLINE only for both the January and February 2026 issues. We do this so that our delivery volunteers stay safe for those iffy winter weather months. Our March 2026 Paper issue will be delivered to homes by Sunday March 8, 2026

The Columbus Recreation & Parks Department is considering increasing programming fees and shortening hours of operation at Columbus Recreation and Parks.

The future of senior programming in our community centers depends on community support and engagement. The City needs the community's feedback.

Please attend the listening session on Tuesday, February 10, 2025, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, at Gillie Community Center, 2100 Morse Road.



FOREST PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT

Quentin Monden & Ashley Howard
.....ashleyhoward@fpcivic.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Mark Bell.....MarkBellncc@insight.rr.com

TREASURER

Cheryl Lutman.....614-783-0514
cllutman17@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Lou Bernard614-569-9028
secretary@fpcivic.org

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marysguerra@howardhanna.com

FORESTER EDITOR

Rita Woeste.....614-327-5175
Forester@fpcivic.org

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY

Daryl Van Mercetta.....513-479-2416
Dvanmercetta@gmail.com

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES

Sheridan Landon....slandon52@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

VACANT.....
Contact Lou,secretary@fpcivic.org if interested

WELCOME COMMITTEE CHAIR

Latia VanDyke.....latiavandyke@fpcivic.org

Forest Park Social Activities

VACANTcontact Lou if interested

Grant Writing Committee

Quentin Monden.....
quentinmondens@fpcivic.org

NCC REPRESENTATIVE

Ken Gilbert614-888-3559
Dave Paul614-325-8217

NCC Development Rep

Ed Vanasdale.....614-847-1494

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Forest Park West

1. Ernie Mack.....614-477-8452
- 2 .Bonnie Freeman....614-356-0816
3. Catherine Gilbert.....(614) 888-3559
4. Suzanne Conway...614-804-4404
5. Scott Biggs.....614-378-9889

Forest Park East

6. Cindy Fenstermaker614-323-3173
7. Eileen Kunkler.....740-605-2526
- 8 Frances Link614-657-9510
9. Jane Dean.....
janemarie6677@yahoo.com
10. Hilda Johnson.....614-515-7711
11. Daryll & Katie..513-479-2416 or
Dave Paul.....614-325-8217
12. Rita Price.....380-269-8878
Francine Dillard....614-882-2717
13. Linda/Harold Bozeman
...614-565-9976
14. VACANT.....

City Code Enforcement : Call 311

CONTRIBUTORS THIS MONTH ARE:

Rita Woeste, Lou Bernard,
Mary Sguerra, Michael Cote,

FORESTER Advertisements

For information please call

Email Lowell at

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Advertisements can be emailed (camera ready) to: forester@fpcivic.org &

COSTS to ADVERTISE:

Full page AD: \$195

1/2 page AD: \$105

1/4 page AD:\$65

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If you encounter problems with an advertiser, please notify Rita Woeste.

FORESTER BILLING ADDRESS:

Checks should be made payable to Forest Park Civic Association and mailed to :

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Foresters are available at the
Karl Road Library, Donatos Pizza,
YMCA, Gabby's Bar

Articles for the next Forester, March 2026,
are due to editor by Weds Feb 18.

The March 2026 issue will be online & a paper copy will be delivered to home by Sunday March 8th, also available at fpcivic.org.

If you can help with delivering the Forester
in your neighborhood, contact
Rita Woeste at forester@fpcivic.org



SEND US
YOUR
NEWS

- Got a Story we should know about?
- Got an event in the Forest Park / Northland Area you want folks to attend?
- School or Sports News you want to tell everyone?

Submit your information for possible publication
in YOUR neighborhood News, The FORESTER.
email

forester@fpcivic.org



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Monthly Financial Report - December 2025

Income	MTD	YTD	Budget	Remaining
Household Membership	\$210.00	\$13,260.00	\$13,500.00	\$240.00
Business Membership	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$750.00	\$600.00
Forester				
Advertising	\$1,240.00	\$5,615.00	\$7,500.00	\$1,885.00
Additional Donations	\$0.00	\$459.17	\$950.00	\$490.83
Supplemental Security	\$20.00	\$789.17	\$1,450.00	\$660.83
Beautification	\$0.00	\$191.67	\$650.00	\$458.33
Garage Sale	\$0.00	\$175.00	\$275.00	\$100.00
Mulch Sale	\$0.00	\$5,185.00	\$6,500.00	\$1,315.00
Welcome Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest	\$0.10	\$0.86	\$2.00	\$1.14
Volunteer Grant	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	(\$500.00)
City of Columbus Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	\$30.00	\$3,541.06	\$2,000.00	(\$1,541.06)
Total Income	\$1,500.10	\$29,866.93	\$33,577.00	\$3,710.07
Expenses				
Membership				
PayPal Fees	\$0.00	\$177.39	\$75.00	(\$102.39)
Annual Mailing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$280.00	\$280.00
USPS Bulk Mail Permit/Postage	\$0.00	\$2,012.00	\$2,195.00	\$183.00
Outreach Day	\$0.00	\$154.11	\$150.00	(\$4.11)
Forester				
Printing	\$0.00	\$6,895.00	\$8,865.00	\$1,970.00
Bags	\$0.00	\$1,560.60	\$2,160.00	\$599.40
Supplemental Security	\$625.00	\$9,262.50	\$12,000.00	\$2,737.50
Beautification				
Island Maintenance	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$1,000.00	\$880.00
Neighborhood Beautification	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Committees				
Grant	\$0.00	\$1,873.88	\$2,500.00	\$626.12
Welcome	\$268.92	\$276.75	\$500.00	\$223.25
Social	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Parade	\$0.00	\$119.60	\$300.00	\$180.40
Garage Sale				
Mulch Sale	\$0.00	\$103.92	\$60.00	(\$43.92)
Office Expenses				
Office Supplies	\$0.00	\$99.00	\$50.00	(\$49.00)
Insurance	\$0.00	\$540.00	\$508.00	(\$32.00)
NCC	\$0.00	\$165.00	\$185.00	\$20.00
Banquet	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$159.40	\$159.40
PO Box	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$268.00	\$268.00
Other	\$0.00	\$131.50	\$100.00	(\$31.50)
Total Expenses	\$893.92	\$27,353.97	\$36,705.40	\$9,351.43
Net	\$606.18	\$2,512.96	(\$3,128.40)	(\$5,641.36)

December, 2025

Treasurer Report

Submitted by
Cheryl Lutman

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Recycling
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DON'T bag your cans or plastic bottles in plastic bags. Rumple cannot recycle items in plastic bags because those bags jam up the machines that sort all of the items in your recycling trash can.

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Support our Local Business Members!!

If you know of a business who would like to advertise in the Forester or just become a FPCA business member, have them contact Forester Editor, email forester@fpcivic.org for information.



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Outreach Report

13 Jan 2026

Submitted by Michael Cote, Chair

1. INPREM Food Pantry remains open M-F, 10 - 7 as well as the third Sat of every month, noon - 3:00, (Jan.17). Volunteers are always welcome. Please contact INPREM.org for details.
2. North YMCA registration for Summer Camp opens Jan 15. Kids will experience outdoor adventures, STEM, and field trips. The next Fresh Produce Giveaway will be March 14, Sat. 10am-1 pm. First come, first served. Also featured that day will be a Community Resource Fair in the Gym.
3. Northland High School (NHS) Community Campus Steering Committee upcoming meeting Jan.28, 4:00 - 5:30. Northland's environmental science teacher, Mechell Drake, has gotten the green light to develop and build a greenhouse at NHS. Contact mdrake2383@columbus.k12.oh.us if interested. Northland is launching a parent engagement committee to address general lack of parental involvement. Please attend the Jan. 28 meeting if you'd like to get involved. Northland is planning a Northland Market and Resource Fair for May 9, the Saturday before Mother's Day. If interested, please attend the Northland Market Meeting at NHS, Jan 15, 3:00 - 4:00 or contact Renee Grice rgrice@columbus.k12.oh.us to help with planning.
4. Woodward Park Community Center Open House, Jan. 14, 5:30 - 7:30. Columbus Recreation and Parks is seeking community input regarding the development of the new linear park, Linden Green Line. Refreshments will be provided.
5. Gillie Senior Recreation Center will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary with a Luncheon, Sat. Jan. 28. Doors will open at 10 AM. Call Gillie Recreation Center (614) 645-3106 in advance for registration and tickets. Tickets for the Luncheon are \$10. Located at 2100 Morse Rd., Gillie is a vibrant hub for active adults seeking fitness classes (Silver Sneakers, yoga, line dancing, etc), arts and crafts (quilting, ceramics, jewelry, painting, etc), card games, poetry circle, chorus, musical performances, social outings, and much more!

FOREST PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

Date: Jan 13, 2026

Location: Epworth United Methodist Church

Meeting called to order @ 7:04 PM by Ashley Howard, Quentin Monden

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attendance was taken via roll call.

OFFICER REPORTS

1. Secretary Lou Bernard read the Slate of Candidates running for positions in the FPCA for 2026. Copies of the "Slate" were made available. Also copies of the FPCA Constitution & Bylaws, and Volunteer Code of Conduct were made available.

Representative Munira Abdullahi swore in all Board of Trustees, Committee Chairs, and Area Representatives. Rep. Abdullahi is our representative for Ohio House District 9.

President Quentin Monden - quentinmondens@fpcivic.org,

Ashley Howard - ashleyhoward@fpcivic.org

1. Scott Biggs and Lou Bernard presented Ed Vanasdale with a plaque thanking him for his years of service and dedication to the FPCA.

We had the Open Forum meeting on 12/9/2025. Additionally, we have shared a link to a Google Form survey to solicit feedback from the Forest Park Community. Thank you to everyone who attended the Open Forum and those of you who have completed the survey. We will have more details to share from the survey and open forum at our next meeting when we have more time.

Guest Speakers:

Representative Munira Abdullahi gave an update on things she is working on.

- Her main focus is on affordable healthcare including controlling the cost of insulin and other needed medications. Her other main focus areas are in consumer protection and affordable housing.
- She was able to secure \$500k to Elevate Northland, and another \$500k to help repair the lakes in Minerva Park. She is working hard to improve and bring money in and to improve the Northland area.
- Rep. Abdullahi grew up and lives in the Forest Park neighborhood. She is passionate about helping our area and is always willing to listen to your concerns. Feel free to call or text - 614.500.0103

Guest Speaker

A lawyer representing the church that purchased the former Red Lobster building on Route 161 attended the meeting to discuss the proposed plans for the site and the variances required to move forward. Pastor Singh of Zomi Christian Church provided a brief overview of the church and explained the reasons for the relocation. General counsel for the church, along with a representative from the construction company, then outlined the requested variances, which include: (1) allowing the church to not sit within 25 feet of the service road and to use the existing Red Lobster footprint; (2) permitting parking in front of the building rather than exclusively behind it; and (3) reducing the requirement for a significant number of windows facing Route 161, as such a design is not conducive to the functional needs of a church. The speakers were asked by the City to come and present to the community that will be impacted. They were not seeking permission, just information - for us and for them. They are still in the process of planning, and do not expect to start construction for awhile.

Vice President Mark Bell - markbell@fpcivic.org No Report

Secretary Lou Bernard - secretary@fpcivic.org

Attendance:

- Officers/Committee Chairs Present: AH, QM, MB, LB, CL, MSg, RW, DVM, KVM, EV, SL, LV, MSt, KG, DP, SB - 100% in Attendance!
- Officers/Committee Chairs Absent: none
- Area Reps in Attendance: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13
- Area Reps Absent: 6, 8, 10, 14 (Areas 6, 8,& 14 are all Vacant)
- Total meeting attendance: 43
- 2. Reviewed minutes from both Dec. 2025 meetings, no changes or corrections needed, minutes have been approved and were entered into the official records.

Attendance Sheet thru Jan: online

Treasurer Cheryl Lutman - cheryllutman@fpcivic.org

1. December was an extremely quiet month. Nothing was received in December.

2. Our goal is 450 household memberships (that's just 16% of the total residents!) to cover our minimum operating expenses. Imagine what we could do if we had more resources - more security patrols, more events, more opportunities to meet and get to know your neighbors. I encourage everyone who hasn't joined yet to visit our website (fpcivic.org) and join! It's just \$30/year per household. Do you rent? We welcome you to join as well!

3. We did meet our income goal to balance the budget for 2025.

4. Other income was advertising revenue.

Our only expenses were the security patrols and supplies for our Welcome Committee.

Public Relations Officer

Mary Sguerra - marysguerra@fpcivic.org No Report

Forester Editor Rita Woeste - forester@fpcivic.org

1. All stories, ads, photos, and articles must be to Rita by Jan. 27th, Tuesday.

The February *Forester* will be ONLINE ONLY!

Supplemental Security Officer

Daryl Van Mercetta - darylvanmercetta@fpcivic.org,

Katie Van Mercetta - kvanmercetta@fpcivic.org,

Dan Yandrich (CPD Liaison Officer) -

dyandrich@columbuspolice.org 614.645.1418

1. The Supplemental Security Team put up the "Package Theft is a Felony" signs around the entrances to the neighborhood.

Past President

Ed Vanasdale - edvanasdale@fpcivic.org No Report

Business Representative

Sheridan Landon - sheridanlandon@fpcivic.org No Report

Civic Action/311 Officer

Ed Vanasdale - edvanasdale@fpcivic.org No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Welcome Committee Chair**

Latia VanDyke - latiavandyke@fpcivic.org

Latia brought Welcome folders for Area Reps present. She will continue dropping off folders to areas without reps.

Volunteer Coordinator VACANT

FPCA January Minutes, continued from page 5

Membership Coordinator

Mike Stone - mikestone@fpcivic.org

1. We demonstrated our membership ceiling during the last cycle when leveraging mail-ins and digital reminders. To build on this success, we require a stronger, sustained activity.
2. Area reps: We need all area representatives to actively engage with and cultivate membership within their specific neighborhoods.
3. Extended membership committee: Expanding this committee is crucial for driving progress and managing growth.
4. To coordinate these efforts, Mike is inviting all members and area reps to a planning meeting.

a. Date: Wednesday, February 4 at 7:00 pm over at Donatos Pizza. (was postponed due to weather)

Ahead of our meeting, a preparatory questionnaire will be circulated to gather input and help us define a clear path forward. By February, we expect to establish key dates for critical activities, including the envelope stuffing day and other important benchmark periods.

Social Activities *VACANT*

NCC Representatives

Mark Bell - markbell@fpcivic.org,

Latia VanDyke - latiavandyke@fpcivic.org,

Ken Gilbert - kengilbert@fpcivic.org

1. Due to an urgency regarding the date, Ken presented that the Woodward Park Community Center Open House was Jan. 14, 5:30 - 7:30. Columbus Recreation and Parks is seeking community input regarding the development of the new linear park, Linden Green Line. Refreshments will be provided.

His full report will be in the *Forester*.

NCC Development Representative

Ed Vanasdale - edvanasdale@fpcivic.org No Report

Grant Writing Committee Chair

Quentin Monden - quentinmondens@fpcivic.org,

Laura Hayes - laurahayes@fpcivic.org No Report

Outreach Committee Chair

Michael Cote - michaelcote@fpcivic.org full report page 4

Website Administrators

Scott Biggs - scottbiggs@fpcivic.org (Website/Facebook)

Dave Paul - dwpaul@fpcivic.org (Website)

Ashley Howard - ashleyhoward@fpcivic.org (Instagram/Facebook)

Our website/Facebook page is always - always being updated with new and upcoming info! Please check it out!! Please subscribe/follow us.

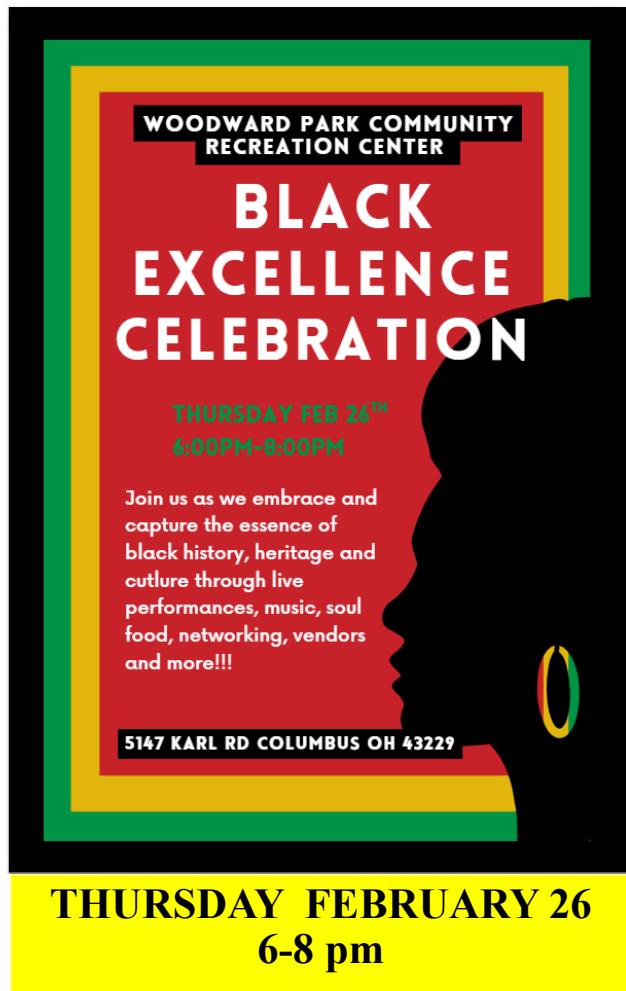
OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/IDEAS

Community members have requested that FPCA general meetings be streamed and made available online. The Board and members present discussed the requirements necessary to implement this, including staffing, equipment, and funding to purchase the necessary equipment. It was determined that, at this time, the association does not have sufficient personnel or equipment to effectively support live streaming or online access.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Meeting minutes submitted by Lou Bernard, Secretary, FPCA



**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26
6-8 pm**

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Our January FPCA meeting was a busy one and well-attended by many residents. We thanked our outgoing President, Ed Vanasdale (at left), for his service and advocacy over the past three years (and several previous terms in past years). We welcomed our new Co-Presidents, Quentin Monden and Ashley Howard (center), and heard an update from special guest State Rep. Munira Andullahi, who is also a Forest Park resident. Rep. Andullahi also swore in all FPCA 2026 officers, committee chairs and area representatives.

Northland Community Council Report

January 6 Meeting

Submitted by KenGilbert

The January meeting of the Northland Community Council took place at Westerwood, on Tuesday the 6th. The report from our police liaisons noted that hotel break-ins in the Northland area are still happening and are increasing. There will be a meeting to discuss the progress on the Green Line (rail trail) at Woodward Park Rec Center: Wed Jan 14 at 5:30 pm. Free trees for Earth Day 2026 are available from the Green Columbus website at www.earthdaycolumbus.org. They are free if you order 50. There is a charge for smaller amounts. Also note that FACT has supplies available for community cleanups.

A 311 tour has been announced—folks from the 311 office will be visiting civics throughout the city. Contact City Community Liaison Devin Deal for more info. There was a discussion of the Columbus Water and Power letter. They have contracted with an outside group to offer insurance. The letter is real. Signing up for this insurance is not mandatory, however.

The Roundtable Discussion was about the next round of the Zone In process. Residents are encouraged to find out more and make their options known. Phase 1 is just the first step in an ongoing process. More info at: <https://zone-in-columbus.hub.arcgis.com/>

Planning for the next 4th of July parade, for the 250th anniversary of the United States, is ongoing. It will cost more this year, as the city is now requiring barricades at many intersections. The committee is looking for an appropriate Grand Marshal. See northlandparade.org for more information and planning meeting times.

Planning continues for the NCC banquet in the spring. Nomination forms for community awards will be going out soon to the civics. They will be due back by the end of February.

Finally there was a brief presentation from FESTA who are offering ESL (English as a Second Language) classes and are looking for volunteers. They focus on families so that both children and parents have the opportunity to learn English. See WEAREFESTA.org for more information. Classes are Tu-Th 6-8:30 pm at Northwood Career Prep HS.



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Thank you

to the Northland High School students and teachers who volunteered at INPREM back in November 2025. The extra help was a Godsend during the busy holiday season with so many immigrant and refugee families no longer receiving SNAP food assistance. Good to see our young neighbors helping folks in Forest Park, Northland and the Columbus Community.

INPREM Food Pantry located on the corner of Karl Road and 161 needs volunteers more than ever to help distribute food during the holidays. Volunteer sign up and hours of operation can be found at the website INPREM.org



Looking for folks to help us in 2026 with delivering the Forester. (starting at end of February, for the March issue)

FP West: Rockwood Road, 38 homes

FP East:

Green Apple & BlackGum Place, 42 homes
Northtowne Ct & Northtowne Blvd, 47 homes

Contact Rita at forester@fpcivic.org if you can help

Looking for some Fun & Educational videos?

Dr. Frederic Bertley, PhD, CEO & President of our very own COLUMBUS COSI has been creating short video on Science related topics that are great for you teens & adults alike. Titled **“Dr B in 3”** these videos cover a variety of topic from viruses to texting, dealing with stress and life beyond us. Check out his animated videos at youtube.com/cosiscience



Forest Park Business Memberships—2025

Home, Services

Mary Sguerra
Howard Hanna Real Estate Services
614-818-7636

Cindy Fenstermaker

AO Real Estate
614-323-3173

Restaurants/Entertainment

Sequoia Pro Bowl
5501 Sandalwood Blvd
614-885-7043

Shopping, Services

Moegling Home Remodeling
330-301-3845
Justin.moegling@gmail.com

Martin's Dumpster Hauling Services
614-600-9426
Martinsdumpster13@yahoo.com

NEIGHBORHOOD Update!



Real Estate Services



February. 2026



MARY SGUERRA

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FOREST PARK RESIDENT

818-7636

Dear Neighbors:

The real estate market is still staying active even though the interest rates have gone up a bit. Let me help you find your next home whether it be a **NEW BUILD** or an **EXISTING HOME** or a **CONDOMINUM**.

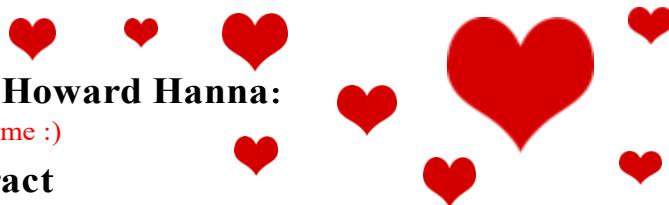
I specialize in this area and I'm always here to help. If you are thinking of making a move - please give me a call and let me show you what Howard Hanna and I can do for you. I hope you have a **GREAT 2026!**

THE MYTH: Winter is **NOT** a good time to sell a house.

THE TRUTH: Winter is an **EXCELLENT** time to sell your house!

THE REASON: Many people believe the myth, so there are fewer houses on the market; But the buyers are more serious at this time. (If buyers are out hunting in the snow, sleet and cold - they are usually pretty committed to purchase a home!) So, serious buyers & fewer homes on the active market = one of the best times to sell!!

CURRENT MARKET WATCH



The following homes are **For Sale** with **Howard Hanna**:

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Howard Hanna homes In Contract

5008 Sienna Lane Split/4BR 319,900

(C)=In Contract Contingent (E)=I/C w/Escape clause

All Homes SOLD

Homes sold since 1/6/26	Asking Price:	Sold Price:
2058 Northcliff Dr.	Ranch/3BR	310,000
1744 Riverbirch Dr.	Split/4BR	299,900
5357 Torchwood Lp W	Ranch/3BR	319,900
5204 Honeytree Lp W	2-Sty/5BR	380,000
		325,000
		370,000

Information obtained from the Columbus Realtors - MLS as of 2/2/26. If your property is currently listed For Sale with another realtor please disregard this offer



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I LIVE IN FOREST PARK
I SELL FOREST PARK

