

The Forester

www.fpcivic.org



Volume 62 Issue 03

Forest Park Civic Association

MARCH 2026

Community Feedback & The Road Ahead

Forest Park showed up.

In November and December 2025, we asked our community to speak — and you did. Residents took the time to complete our digital feedback survey, and what we received wasn't just data. It was direction. It was honesty. It was care for this neighborhood.

That matters.

Because FPCA is not just a civic association. We are an extension of Forest Park itself. And when the community speaks, we listen.

We are actively reviewing the survey results, and the insights gathered will directly shape how we operate — how we communicate, how we advocate, how we prioritize projects, and how we invest our energy and resources moving forward.

This is about alignment.

This is about accountability.

And most importantly, this is about ownership.

Forest Park is not something that happens to us — it's something we build together.

If you have ideas, bring them.

If you see a need, speak up.

If you want to volunteer, step in.

The strength of this association is not in a board. It is in the participation of its members. It is in neighbors choosing to care. It is in residents deciding that this community is worth their time and effort.

The survey was the first step.

The next step is action.

Let's take it — together.



Thanks, Quentin Monden/Ashley Howard, FPCA President

March 2026 FPCA Meeting

Tuesday March 10, 2026 7 pm

Epworth United Methodist Church

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

The April 2026 Forester will arrive to homes via Mail with our annual membership form. Your simple \$30 membership will do so much for the neighborhood! Look for it mid April, after April 12th.

Help Us with Membership Drive in April

We will be mailing over 2800+ large envelopes in April to all households of Forest Park. Last year your efforts got the work done in less than 2 hours!!!

We can use your help stuffing the envelopes with our April Forester and membership Form. JOIN US

When: **April 11th - 1pm**

Where: **Advantage Funeral & Cremation Services by Schoedinger**
5554 Karl Road.

More info, contact: MikeStone@fpcivic.org

FOREST PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT

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.....ashleyhoward@fpcivic.org

VICE PRESIDENT

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VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

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

WELCOME COMMITTEE CHAIR

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

Forest Park Social Activities

VACANT.....contact Lou if interested

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quentinmonden@fpcivic.org

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Dave Paul.....614-325-8217

NCC Development Rep

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

Membership

Mike Stone.....mikestone@fpcivic.org

Outreach

Michael Cote...michaelcote@fpcivic.org

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Forest Park West

1. Ernie Mack.....614-477-8452
2. Latia VanDyke.....(419) 516-2753
- 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. Vacant
7. Eileen Kunkler.....740-605-2526
8. Vacant
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,
Katie/Daryl Van Mercetta, Scott Biggs,
Cheryl Lutman, Lisa Dove, Ken Gilbert

FORESTER Advertisements

For information please call
Email Lowell at

fpca.newsletter.ad.manager@gmail.com

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

Business card AD: \$40

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

FORESTER BILLING ADDRESS:

Checks should be made payable to Forest
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Columbus, OH 43229-0160

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

Articles for the next Forester, April 2026,
are due to editor by Weds March 25.
The April 2026 issue will be online & a paper
copy will be mailed along with membership
renewal forms after April 12th. It will also
be available at fpcivic.org.

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



- 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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Agente Certificado E-FILE

Leticia Martínez

(614) 478-9348

5395 Tamarack Blvd
Columbus, OH 43229

Monthly Financial Report - January, 2026

<u>Income</u>	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
Household Membership	\$30.00	\$13,290.00	\$13,500.00	\$210.00
Business Membership	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$750.00	\$600.00
Forester				
Advertising	\$0.00	\$5,615.00	\$7,500.00	\$1,885.00
Additional Donations	\$0.00	\$459.17	\$950.00	\$490.83
Supplemental Security	\$0.00	\$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	\$0.00	\$3,541.06	\$2,000.00	(\$1,541.06)
Total Income	\$30.10	\$29,896.93	\$33,577.00	\$3,680.07
<u>Expenses</u>				
Membership				
PayPal Fees	\$1.36	\$178.75	\$75.00	(\$103.75)
Annual Mailing Printing	\$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	\$1,000.00	\$10,262.50	\$12,000.00	\$1,737.50
Beautification				
Island Maintenance	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$1,000.00	\$880.00
Neighborhood Beautification	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Committees				
Grant	\$81.32	\$1,955.20	\$2,500.00	\$544.80
Welcome	\$0.00	\$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	\$0.00	\$103.92	\$60.00	(\$43.92)
Mulch Sale	\$0.00	\$3,862.72	\$4,700.00	\$837.28
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	\$1,082.68	\$28,436.65	\$36,705.40	\$8,268.75
Net	(\$1,052.58)	\$1,460.28	(\$3,128.40)	(\$4,588.68)

January, 2026
Treasurer Report
Submitted by
Cheryl Lutman

BE A
PART OF
THE
PARK!

Recycling Blue Trash Cans

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

<https://www.columbus.gov/Services/Trash-Recycling-Bulk-Collection/How-to-Dispose-or-Recycle/How-to-Recycle>

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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.

SEQUOIA

FOREST PARK'S FUN SINCE 1963

NEIGHBORS SAVE

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(Mon-Thurs Some exclusions)
Thank you for supporting local



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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.

Garden Notes-March 2026

What's in the bag? The Mystery of Potting Soil and Potting Mixes

Gardeners are starting to get antsy. The deep January freeze will not allow us to do much outside, and so we begin to look suspiciously at our indoor plants that are looking a little tired. We also begin to scan our seed catalogs anticipating the start of our vegetable and flower gardens indoors.

I've been glued to Bonsai Reels on the internet, watching the process on how to start them, and how to re-pot them (And realizing that if I start one, at this point, it will probably have to be willed to my children).

Success for any type of gardening is reliant on 4 critical environmental elements: **structure (soil), water, temperature, and light.**

Shopping for potting medium is comparable to going to the grocery store. You can buy ingredients to make your own, or you can buy pre-bagged, ready-made. All with colorful labels, promising spectacular results. Pick Me! Pick Me! You know that things are better if you make it yourself, because you can make what you want, but the other stuff is sooooo much more convenient!



Here are some things to remember when heading to the garden store.

- *Potting Soil* normally contains based on in-ground topsoil, non-sterile, contains compost. *Best used for non-container gardening and landscape use.*
- *Potting Mix* is sterile and contains compostable organic matter (sphagnum moss and other amendments as listed below), and may contain fertilizer. Good for indoor/outdoor potted plants, and for seed starting.
- pH for plant health should be between 6.0 and 7.0. You can customize your pH balance for specific plants, based upon their specific needs, by using other additives.
- Moisture Control: Look for Peat Moss, or Coconut Coir. This is important for repotting existing plants. The inclusion of Vermiculite and any additional organic material will add additional support.
- Aeration: This gives roots "empty" space in the soil to access air, water, and nutrients. Look for Perlite, Vermiculite, Sand, Shredded Bark, etc.
- Disease Prevention: Look for the word "Sterilized", especially if you are looking to start seeds.
- Root Support: Look for sand, small aggregate particles. Organic material such as pulverized or shredded bark is also a good option.
- Nutrients: This is where it gets complicated. Any bagged soil or mix that has added fertilizer, is not bad, but you need to decide if it is worth the extra \$\$\$. The fertilizer that has been added to the mix will support your plant for only 1 month or two, at the most. Then you must purchase additional fertilizer or re-pot the plant again, using new medium.

Commercial soil manufacturers are hip to our needs and market many different specialized types of soil and mixes. Some are targeted specifically for Seed Starting, Orchids, Cactus, Bonsai, etc. Each bag supports the basic needs of each type of plant (pH, drainage, moisture control, aeration) but, due to its specialty, comes with less volume, and a higher price tag.



Hugo Barragan from the Franklin County Auditor's office was our guest speaker at February's FPCA meeting. Hugo told residents how homeowners can file complaints if we think the auditor has assessed our home values incorrectly. These assessments determine our property taxes.

You can file complaints at 13 Mobile Filing Events. If you missed the event at our Karl Rd. Library on Jan. 24, you can hit any of nine more through March. Visit the Auditors website for details.

www.franklincountyauditor.com You can also file online at the Auditor's website.

Hugo told us that homeowners can present evidence to lower our property tax assessment, including quotes for needed repairs, photos of areas in and around your house that need improvement, and neighbor's assessments that are lower than yours.

He indicated that there is a good chance that you can convince the office to lower your assessment and lower your tax bill.

We appreciate him attending and staying late to talk with Forest Park residents about the program.



NOTES from Meeting about the SENIOR Programming in Community Centers at the Gille Senior Recreation Center.

The Gillie Senior Recreation Center hosted a one hour discussion on February 10th, for more than one hundred seniors with the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD) on the proposed changes to program fees and the future of senior programming. This was one of five listening sessions at Community Centers around the City to discuss "updated" pricing for senior programs. The discussion at Gillie started with the CRPD aiming to dispel four myths that emerged at other community listening sessions:

Myth 1) Members of Community Centers believe that the CRPD has already made up its mind about "updating" program fees. The CRPD spokesperson, Kenton Curtis, Jr., stated that these listening sessions will be taken into account before a decision is made this Fall.

Myth 2) Members of the Community think "updated" charges of \$40 per class per session will be imposed. While these "updated" fees have been proposed, there are lower "updated" pricing fees being proposed as well as charging a flat membership fee.

Myth 3) Members of the Community think that their taxes pay for all the programs provided by CRPD therefore all programs should be free. In truth only 70% of CRPD's budget is generated by taxes with the balance coming from grants that help cover the needs of 28 Community Centers, parks, and bike trails.

Myth 4) Members of the Community believe that the CRPD just wants to get rid of Senior programs. The Department denies that, but the history of many closed Senior Centers in Columbus fails to support that assertion.

A lengthy open-ended discussion ensued on what Seniors want in programming, both new and existing. Suggestions included the following:

- More fitness classes, particularly for arthritis, improving balance, and fall prevention
- More Silver Sneakers classes
- More field trips to see the sights and sounds around Ohio
- More classes focused on the history of Ohio, particularly the Underground Railroad
- More Health fairs, like the Brain Health Fair with the OSU School of Nursing
- Offer more office hours with the Lifecare Alliance Visiting Nurse
- Offer creative writing and poetry classes
- Offer classes on the use of digital technology for seniors
- Provide desktop computers for use by members in the Center
- Offer more foreign language classes
- Offer handyman classes focused on household maintenance
- Please listen to our Center's Staff who understand what our program needs are
- Offer arts and crafts classes, particularly quilting and ceramics



The discussion allowed for several members to offer personal testimony about the importance of Gillie to their mental, physical, and social well-being. Many members consider Gillie their home and see other members and staff as their family. Some members have no other place to go. Gillie helps seniors maintain social connections, cope with loneliness following the loss of a spouse, find comfort and understanding among others with similar life experiences, rediscover purpose and meaning, and make new friendships.

A number of members expressed a willingness to pay "updated" fees within reason to help address any budget shortfalls that Gillie may face. Some suggested that a yearly membership fee would be more affordable and administratively feasible than the imposition of any per class per session fees. Members who know the long history of the Community Centers said that yearly memberships were successfully used in the past. Some members cautioned the Department not to impose any new fees that make Gillie unaffordable to use for seniors on fixed incomes, especially those who are near poverty level. Other seniors stated that they've worked hard, paid taxes to the City for many years, and now that they've gotten to this point they have earned the right to retirement and the use of Community Centers without the worry of being able to afford new fees.

The last segment of the discussion allowed members an opportunity to provide solutions regarding senior programming and budgetary concerns. Several members suggested that CRPD reexamine their funding priorities given the current emphasis on developing new parks such as the Linden Green Line Park and the Kilbourne Run Sports Park when existing legacy Community Centers, like Gillie, are not being adequately maintained or "updated". Some members questioned why the approved Bond for Recreation and Parks that Columbus voters overwhelmingly passed in 2025 is not being used to "update" the Gillie Senior Recreation Center. Columbus once boasted having eight Senior Community Centers, yet Gillie now remains the only Community Center in Columbus dedicated to providing solely programming to seniors. Many seniors will travel long distances from around Columbus to participate in Gillie's unique programs. Gillie truly is a unique Community Center in Columbus and it has become an important part of the social fabric of the Northland community. Given its distinct contributions to the community and its importance to many seniors, it's time to ask why the Gillie Senior Recreation Center is located in a rental space in a strip mall at 2100 Morse Road while millions of dollars are currently being spent on developing new parks. This year marks the 25th year that Gillie Senior Recreation Center has provided dedicated senior programming for seniors in Columbus. This 25th anniversary of Gillie Senior Recreation Center presents an opportunity to Columbus to demonstrate that it cares for seniors and we can afford a fair, reasonable, and compassionate "updated" pricing plan for Gillie's seniors.

Submitted by Michael Cote

Hello Forest Park!

Officer Duane Hicks is taking over as our police liaison and he can be reached at (614) 645-1418 or DHicks@columbuspolice.org. He comes from Area 5, which is South Linden, so he should be a great asset to our neighborhood. We're grateful for all the time and energy Officer Yandrich put into keeping our neighborhood informed over the past few years and look forward to building a relationship with Officer Hicks.



If you weren't able to make our February meeting, here is what you missed from Supplemental Security. This time of year tends to be relatively slow for the police and supplemental security requests. There have been several complaints about cars being parked on the street, away from the curb and still covered with snow. This is a hazardous for other drivers and the cars should be cleared and moved now that the snow had started to melt. Parking issues should be directed to 311, who has a great civilian Parking Enforcement Officer, and ask for the Parking Enforcement Bureau.

Typical for this time of year, we warn people not to heat up their cars, leaving them unattended. The police have been getting a lot of car theft reports, and in addition to losing your car, it so can result in a ticket for the owner. Not only that but having unattended and/or unlocked cars indicates to criminals that our neighborhood is an easy target, which will only encourage malfeasance.



There have been a couple recent incidents in our area. On 01/22/2026, there was a verbal argument that led to a homicide on the 4600 block of Tamarack Blvd. An arrest was made within hours by Swat. The police have also noticed that calls are starting to rapidly increase at 1289 E. Dublin-Granville Rd, which is the former America's Best Value Inn next to Popeyes. This is a known issue and is being monitored by the police.

If you're planning on traveling soon, don't forget to turn in your Supplemental Security Request form to Daryl Van Mercetta. He will ensure that it is passed along to our security company for additional monitoring while you're away. You can fill out the form online at fpcivic.org, email it to security@fpcivic.org, or mail it to 2131 Honeytree Court, Columbus, OH 43229.

As always, if you see something, say something and stay safe everyone!

We will need to drive a few more miles to get our auto titles now. Maryellen O'Shaughnessy, the Franklin County Clerk of Courts, has notified the FPCA that the Auto Title North Office formerly at 980 Morse Rd. (Near I-71) has moved to:

**220 E. Campus View Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43235**

"We look forward to welcoming you to our new space and continuing to provide the same great service you know and trust," O'Shaughnessy



Thanks for your Leadership!!

Out going but not that far FPCA President Ed Vanasdale and Incoming Co-Presidents, Quentin Monden & Ashley Howard pose with State Rep Munira Andullahi, who also is a FP resident after the swearing in ceremonies of FPCA Board members & Area Reps at our January 2026 meeting

FOREST PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION**MEETING Minutes**

Date: February 10, 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**President** Quentin Monden - quentinmonden@fpcivic.org,Ashley Howard - ashleyhoward@fpcivic.orgSee report in *Forester***Guest Speaker:** Hugo Barragan, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Franklin County Auditor.

A surprise guest speaker. If you're looking for property tax relief, you have until March 31st to file an appeal regarding your current property valuation. No appointments are necessary, so you can simply walk in to start the process; just be sure to bring supporting evidence like photos of needed repairs, recent sales data from your neighborhood, or a professional appraisal. It's a great opportunity to ensure your tax bill accurately reflects your home's true condition and value.

You can reach Hugo at (c) 614.499.3570 or email him at hugo.barragan1@franklincountyohio.gov

Vice President Mark Bell - markbell@fpcivic.org

Please shovel your sidewalks in front of your house and help out our neighbors who are walking. A FP neighbor was hit by a car walking in the street because the sidewalks were covered. Also, shovel out in front of our storm drains on the street.

Secretary Lou Bernard - secretary@fpcivic.org

Attendance:

- Officers/Committee Chairs Present: AH, QM, MB, LB, CL, MSg, RW, DVM, EV, SL, MSt, KG, SB
- Officers/Committee Chairs Absent: KVM, DP, LV
- Area Reps in Attendance: 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13
- Area Reps Absent: 3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 (6, 8, and 14 are VA-CANT)

Total meeting attendance: 34

Reviewed minutes from Jan., no changes or corrections needed, minutes have been approved and were entered into the official records.

Attendance Sheet thru Feb.: Online

A new email listserve/Google Group address for area reps has been created to be used by officers and committee chairs.

Treasurer Cheryl Lutman - cheryllutman@fpcivic.org

- We are 7 memberships short of our goal for the fiscal year ending March 31st.
- We are off our budgeted income by \$3,680. However, we have kept expenses in line, and are under by about \$8,200.
- There will be a few expenses for the membership mailing that will come through in March, plus we will have our normal expenses for the *Forester* and the security patrols.
- 2026 Budget Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 10:00 AM at COhatch Worthington – 752 High St, Columbus, OH 43085.

Public Relations OfficerMary Sguerra - marysguerra@fpcivic.org

Looking ahead for our Forest Park Spring Community Garage Sale - Please save the date May 16th.

Forester Editor Rita Woeste - forester@fpcivic.org

- Hoping for the best weather for safer delivery of the *Forester*.
- The March deadline for *Forester* entries is Wednesday, Feb 18th. We can get it to the printer and back to stuffers by Feb 27th. The plan is to have *Foresters* in homes by Sunday March 8th. We are looking for articles.
- We should review the suggestions provided by neighbors during the December information meeting to identify new topics for our upcoming articles.
- The April issue will go out with a membership form, but Easter is April 5th, the first weekend of April. The plan is to have the deadline for articles on March 25th.
- Membership stuffing with membership form will take place Saturday April 11th, at Schoedinger.

Continued on Page 9.....



A Peaceful Passing At Home



Alex Wolfingbarger, DVM
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and Westerville areas

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.....continued from page 8, FPCA meeting minutes

Supplemental Security Officer

Daryl Van Mercetta - darylvanmercetta@fpcivic.org,
Katie Van Mercetta - kvanmercetta@fpcivic.org

- Relatively quiet from a supplemental security stand point.
- Officer Yandrich also confirmed crime is down this time of the year.
- One of the most common complaints in the city is that people are parking in the street beyond the snowbanks, causing significant frustration for residents.
- Do not leave your car running unattended to warm up in cold weather.
- Officer Yandrich is stepping down, and Officer Duane Hicks (DHicks@columbuspolice.org) is taking over the position. The contact phone number remains the same: (614) 645-1418

Past President

Ed Vanasdale - edvanasdale@fpcivic.org No Report

Business Representative

Sheridan Landon - sheridanlandon@fpcivic.org No Report
If you are interested in becoming a business member, please contact Sheridan or our Treasurer, Cheryl Lutman.

Civic Action/311 Officer

Ed Vanasdale - edvanasdale@fpcivic.org
If you have any 311/code enforcement issues or questions, feel free to contact Ed at his email address or cell listed in the *Forester*.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Welcome Committee Chair

Latia VanDyke - latiavandyke@fpcivic.org No Report

Volunteer Coordinator VACANT

If you are interested in volunteering in this position, please contact one of the presidents or the secretary.

Membership Coordinator Mike Stone - mikestone@fpcivic.org

- Envelope Stuffing Day will be April 11th at Schoedingers. Stuffing time begins at 1:00 p.m.
- March 5th Meeting @ Donato's for Area Reps and others interested in helping Mike with membership.

Social Activities VACANT

- If you are interested in volunteering in this position, please contact one of the presidents or the secretary.

NCC Representatives

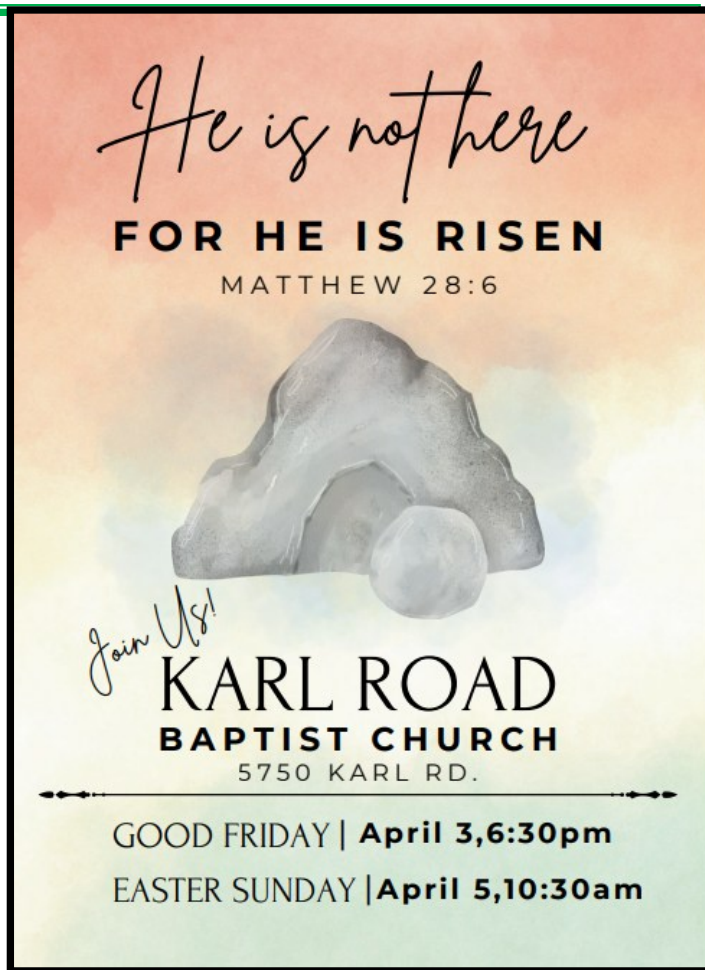
Mark Bell - markbell@fpcivic.org,
Latia VanDyke - latiavandyke@fpcivic.org,
Ken Gilbert - kengilbert@fpcivic.org
See report in the *Forester*.

NCC Development Representative

Ed Vanasdale - edvanasdale@fpcivic.org
The church who came last month that will be taking over the old Red Lobster building on Rt. 161, did not do the prescribed mailings to the NCC Dev Board, so their case was tabled. See meeting minutes on the FPCA website.

Grant Writing Committee Chair

Quentin Monden - quentinmonden@fpcivic.org,
Laura Hayes - laurahayes@fpcivic.org No Report



Outreach Committee Chair

Michael Cote - michaelcote@fpcivic.org
See report in the *Forester*.

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

1. Community members have requested that FPCA general meetings be streamed and made available online. The Board and members present at the January meeting 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.

The Sign Team submitted 311s to replace the missing signs around the entrances to FP, but we were asked to resubmit in the spring when it is more feasible to put them up; this way the 311s won't stay on their books as being unfulfilled. We will take care of this later.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/IDEAS None

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM

Meeting minutes submitted by Lou Bernard, Secretary, FPCA

February 2026 Outreach Report

Submitted by Michael Cote



Northland High School initiatives to explore:

- 1) Northland Market on May 9, 2026 at NHS. Contact Renee Grice rgrice@columbus.k12.oh.us regarding volunteering, vendors, tables, and performances. See flyer posted on FPCA Facebook.
- 2) Culture Festival on May 8, 2026 at NHS. Contact Lauren Osborn losborn@columbus.k12.oh.us. Flyer not yet available.
- 3) Community Campus School initiative will host another Community Conversation on Feb. 26, 2026, 3:30 PM at NHS on the topic "Building a Diverse Community in a Digital Age".

The Forest Park community is cordially invited to attend all events at NHS.

- The North YMCA will host a Job and Resource Fair in partnership with OSU and Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services on March 27 2026. FPCA is invited to set up a table.
- Let's join with our neighbors in Karmel Woodward Park in their initiative to form a Friends of Woodward Park group. The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department in conjunction with the Karmel Woodward Park Civic Association (KWPCA) is launching a new community group this Spring to help Woodward Park maintain and improve the beauty of Woodward Park and Nature Preserve. This is an opportunity for the Forest Park Civic Association to explore the potential for developing a joint effort with our neighbors in the Karmel Woodward Park Civic Association and show that we also care about Woodward Park. Anyone interested in planting native wild flowers, landscaping, and the removal of invasive plants, etc., in Woodward Park Nature Preserve please contact Michael Cote and I'll reach out to KWPCA to propose a potential collaboration in the development of a joint Friends of Woodward Park group.
- Woodward Park Community Center will be hosting the Third Annual Celebration of Black Excellence to celebrate Black History Month on Thursday, Feb 26, 2026: 6:00 - 8:00 PM at 5147 Karl Road. Join your neighbors in a celebration of black history and culture through music, soul food, networking, vendors, and more! We hope to see you at this free fun event! See flyer posted on FPCA Facebook.



To celebrate America's 250th Anniversary, various locations across OHIO are offering **FREE** movies to view. Franklin county has multiple free movies every month of the celebration. Check out the website for the schedule.

<https://ohiogoes to the movies.org/>

Key Aspects of Ohio Goes to the Movies (2026):

- **Event Scope:** Over 250 free, public movie screenings throughout Ohio.
- **Duration:** February 11, 2026, through October 2026.
- **Focus:** Films featuring Ohio-connected actors, directors, writers, or locations.

Time to Clean & Find those unwanted items

Spring is Almost here, at least we hope it is. As you are doing your spring cleaning and you find items you no longer need or use, get them ready to sell!

Forest Park will again advertise all of your garage sales for Saturday May 16th. We will publicize on Face Book, print & pass out flyers with maps announcing your garage sale, at our Spring Community Garage Sale. On May 16, we will pass out those flyers with maps so folks can locate your garage sale.



So it's time to clean and time to sell those "old" treasures you no longer want.

Look for the form in April's issue of the Forester. Cost will be \$5 per household garage sale and costs cover advertising it in the newspaper, printing maps with a basic description of items you will have for sale at your location.

For questions, contact Mary Sguerra at marysguerra@fpcivic.org

Northland Community Council Report

February 3, 2026 Meeting
Submitted by Ken Gilbert



Police: CRT Sergeant Ryan Fowler was there in place of the other officers. The main topic of discussion was ICE and Columbus Police. CPD does not assist ICE.

Shannon Pine, Chief Zoning Official gave a brief talk on upcoming Zone -In plans. There will be a new overall city plan, called Columbus Growth Strategy. This will replace older area plans like Northland I and II. See the Zone-In webpage for more details (<https://zone-in-columbus.hub.arcgis.com/>). They will return with an update soon.

Grants are open for the Columbus Youth Summer program.

There will be a senior programming meeting at the Gillie Center on Morse Rd on February 11 at 11:30 AM-12:30 PM.

Devin also noted that there is a Food Lead Kit available and that the Dr. King Youth Oratory contest will take place February 7.

Chloe Green (cdgreen@columbus.gov), Planner II from Columbus Division of Mobility and Park Services made a presentation on Sharon Woods BLVD resurfacing with info on potential bikeway opportunity. There will be a time for public comment. Contact her for more info.

The NCC Banquet will take place on April 7 in lieu of the monthly NCC meeting. Details to follow. Entry forms for awards are due soon.



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

FP East:

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

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

Forest Park East

Trash Pick Up Day
Color: **NAVY**

Trash Day: Wednesday
Thru May 25th

Recycle Day:
Every Friday

Yard Waste:
Every other Friday,
March 13, 27

Forest Park WEST

Trash Pick Up Day
Color: **RUBY**

Trash Day: FRIDAY
Thru end of MAY, 2026

Recycle Day:
Every Friday

Yard Waste:
Every other Friday
March 13 & 27

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

March, 2026



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



MARY SGUERRA

CBR \$25 MILLION CLUB
FOREST PARK RESIDENT

818-7636

Dear Neighbors:

Now that things have settled down after the holiday season, the real estate market is beginning to pick up. If you need help in 2026 with either selling or buying a home, please give me a call! Let me show you what Howard Hanna and I can do for you. I hope you have a **GREAT 2026!**

2025 YEAR END FOREST PARK HOME SALES REPORT

STYLE & NUMBER OF HOMES SOLD		AVERAGE LIST PRICE	AVERAGE SOLD PRICE	RANGE OF SOLDS (Low-High)
2 STORY	26	\$333,426	\$329,323	\$ 257,900 - \$375,000
SPLIT	20	\$316,930	\$313,490	\$ 235,000 - \$375,000
RANCH	32	\$286,720	\$286,416	\$ 177,200 - \$380,000
BILEVEL	6	\$288,800	\$294,633	\$ 193,000 - \$349,900
TOTAL SOLD	84	* (FYI Great News! Average Days on the market for 2025 was 22 days)		

CURRENT MARKET WATCH

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

Looking for New Listings to add here. Please give me a call today! :)



Howard Hanna homes In Contract

5008 Sienna Lane Split/4BR 319,900

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

All Homes SOLD

Homes sold since 2/2/26

		Asking Price:	Sold Price:
5566 Satinwood Dr.	Split/3BR	205,040	205,040
1341 Boxwood Dr.	Bilvl/3BR	295,000	310,000
1411 Firwood Dr.	Split/4BR	309,000	309,000
5674 Lindenwood Rd	2-Sty/4BR	324,900	324,900

**I KNOW FOREST PARK!
I LIVE IN FOREST PARK!
I SELL FOREST PARK!**



Information obtained from the Columbus Realtors - MLS as of 2/12/26. If your property is currently listed For Sale with another realtor please disregard this offer

