JULY 2025

www.forestparkonline.com



Editor: **Monte Johnson** Assistant Editor: **Kathy Revels** Feature writers: **Heather Flavin, Paula Batson** Email: <u>fpsocialnews@gmail.com</u> www.forestparkonline.com



For advertising information please call 941-375-3699

PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP AWARD WINNER By Forest Park Compliance Committee





July Inaugural Winners David and Cindy Loper 723 Knotty Pine Circle

In the spirit of recognizing how far we have come and encouraging each other, we will highlight Forest Park homes displaying "Pride of Ownership." Look for a photo in the newsletter and a sign in the owner's yard. And don't forget to compliment the homeowners on their beautiful home or home improvements.

The rest of us benefit not only by having our neighborhood improved, but we can also get ideas for our own homes from what others have done to enhance their property.

Beginning with the August Newsletter the Compliance Committee will recognize two homes in the park.







WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY! By Kathy Revels



As we make our way around Forest Park, we can't help noticing the lovely homes and yards in our neighborhood. It was heartbreaking to see the devastation that Ian brought to our Park and the surrounding area just a few years ago. Those who

lost their homes had to decide if they wanted to rebuild or leave altogether. Thankfully, the percentage of complete losses in Forest Park were fairly low.

While most of our homes survived, the majority had some degree of destruction. The damage ranged from a missing piece of siding or roofing to near re-builds, or total replacements. The most common repair was carport replacement. New home manufacturers, contractors and repairmen of all types were immediately booked for many months, if not years.



Scammers came out of the woodwork to take advantage of those desperate to save their homes. Supplies were hard to find for anyone attempting to fix problems on their own. Nearly three years later, we've made it through and our homes are looking better than ever. We have not only made repairs, we have lovingly improved our surroundings. We took advantage of the circumstances and decided to make things better than before. It's just natural, then, that one of our favorite pastimes is spotting something new our neighbors have done. A new coat of paint, new windows, trimmed trees, a painted driveway, landscaping, patio furniture...we love it all! It's amazing that we notice these changes and enhancements when we have over 400 homes in our Park! Thank you to everyone for making Forest Park a beautiful place to live.



COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT.

FP DOCUMENT SPOTLIGHT

It was brought to the attention of the compliance committee that some residents are not familiar with the **Deed of Restrictions or the Rules and Regulations**



for Forest Park. This last month we notified residents that every home is required to have a carport and an outside shed. Some residents have not replaced their carport or shed since Hurricane Ian because of the financial obligation. In the **Deed of Restrictions, Paragraph #2**, the last sentence states, **"Driveways to be of concrete with each mobile home having an approved carport and utility building** (minimum size to be 6 foot by 8 foot). If anyone has any questions or concerns about the replacement of your carport or shed please contact a Compliance Committee member.

Hello Forest Park!

We are happy to report that our letters of non compliant properties have been taken seriously, and over 30 households have resolved their issues! Thanks to all for being so cooperative in these matters. Please know we are all just trying to get Forest Park back to its former number 1 position for 55 and over communities in North Fort Myers. This helps with home values and makes Forest Park a desirable place to live. As the rainy season is upon us and many have left the Park, please make sure you have lawn care in place. The recommended cutting is 2 times per month (minimum) to keep within our community guidelines. Also make sure your trees are trimmed as we do have many with dead limbs and palms. For those still in the Park, if you have a complaint there are forms available in the office, just know we are doing our best to resolve any and all issues. Have a wonderful summer!

Compliance Committee

Barbara Batson Passos, Bob Charles, Warren Starks, Heather Flavin, Kevin Mann****



Forest Park

"WHEN I'M AN OLD LADY"

When I'm an old lady, I'll live with each kid, And bring so much happiness just as they did. I want to pay back all the joy they've provided. Returning each deed! Oh, they'll be so excited!

When I'm an old lady and live with my kids. I'll write on the walls with reds, whites and blues, And I'll bounce on the furniture wearing my shoes. I'll drink from the carton and then leave it out. I'll stuff all the toilets and oh, how they'll shout!

When I'm an old lady and live with my kids. When they're on the phone and just out of reach, I'll get into things like sugar and bleach. Oh, they'll snap their fingers and then shake their head,

When I'm an old lady and live with my kids. When they cook dinner and call me to eat, I'll not eat my green beans or salad or meat, I'll gag on my okra, spill milk on the table, And when they get angry I'll run if I'm able!

When I'm an old lady and live with my kids. I'll sit close to the TV, through channels I'll click, I'll cross both eyes just to see if they stick. I'll take off my socks and throw one away, And play in the mud 'til the end of the day!

When I'm an old lady and live with my kids. And later in bed, I'll lay back and sigh, I'll thank God in prayer and then close my eyes. My kids will look down with a smile slowly creeping, And say with a groan, "She's so sweet when she's sleeping!"

Credit Goes To : Joanne Bailey Baxter

BUT WHAT DO I KNOW? By Tom Treece

While I was mincing onions to smother the hot dogs, my sweetheart, Renee, was broiling on the grill. I asked a simple question: "I wonder who came up with the name, "hot dog," and why? "Good question to ask Siri," was her answer. Pulling my iPhone from my pocket, I asked her the same question, (dontcha just love the Internet for information!). "Frankfurt, Germany, is traditionally credited with originating the frankfurter," Siri began, "However, this claim is disputed by those who assert that the popular sausage - known as a "Dachshund" or "littledog" sausage – was created in the late 1600's by a local butcher.

Others attribute the title to cartoonist Tad Dorgan, who allegedly misspelled "dachshund" when drawing a cartoon of a vendor selling "hot dachshund sausages" at a New York Giants baseball game in 1901. As the tale goes, he could not spell the dog's name and wrote, "Hot Dog" instead, sparking the name's widespread adoption.

German immigrant vendors selling sausages in the late 1800's often brought their dachshund dogs along and the sausages themselves were sometimes referred to as "Dachshund sausages" due to their shape. This connection, along with the vendors' friendly jokes about the sausages being made from meat from the dogs, may also have led to the term, "hot dog" being coined."

As that information answered my query, it also led me to looking for more. I discovered that the most expensive hot dog in the world was "sold in Seattle, Washington, for a whopping \$169 from a Tokyo Dog food truck." Speaking of strange names, despite the outrageous price, that truck name alone would keep me from wanting one.

Another related story shared that a Bavarian vendor loaned white gloves for customers to hold his sausages with the promise they would be returned after consumption. When the gloves started disappearing, he asked his baker-brother for a solution with which to hold the hot frankfurters...thus the hot dog bun was created. For a final bit of useless information about one of America's favorite fast foods, did you know that actor Bruce Willis popped the question to his former wife, Demi Moore, while standing outside of Pink's Hot Dog Stand in Hollywood? Do you care? Didn't think so, but, we aim to please here with the Forest Park Newsletter!

Now that you're all caught up on hot dog info, perhaps you can share it while standing around the grill on National Hot Dog Day, July 19th. And, maybe our Social Club could have a Hot Dog

Eating Contest that day in honor of Joey Chestnut, who has reportedly eaten over 19,200 hot dogs during his lifetime, including 72 hot dogs in one setting! I'm guessing the man has a Spandex stomach...but, what do I know...



RECIPE OF THE MONTH *By Kathy Revels*

UNCLE GORDON'S HOTDOG CHILI

lb ground beef
small jars chili sauce
l/2 large onion, diced
Tbsp oil
l/4 cup ketchup
Salt and pepper to taste
tsp celery seed
Brown sugar (optional)



In a medium sized pan, boil the burger in 2 cups of water until browned. Drain and chop into very fine pieces. Saute onion in oil. Add meat, chili sauce, ketchup, salt, pepper, and celery seed. If a sweeter sauce is desired, add ½ tsp brown sugar at a time to taste. Simmer for 10 minutes. If it's too thick add a bit of water. Spoon over hotdog along with your other favorite toppings. **Re-warming tip: Put hotdog in bun and top with chili. Wrap in wax paper. Warm in the microwave for 30-35 seconds.



FROM By Chr Pres this tim submiss

FROM THE PRESIDENT By Chris Tybor

President Tybor is on vacation at this time. The staff did not receive a submission for the Newsletter from anyone on the Board of Directors.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR & GENERAL MEETING DATES

From the Office

General Membership Meetings

- We are a membership community. Monthly General Membership



meetings are an important part of keeping our park a great place to live. Please make an effort to attend in person to help us meet our quorums for voting on issues large and small. If you can't make it in person, please join us by Zoom so your voice can be heard and so you have a full understanding of any issues. Zoom can be done on your smartphone, computer, or tablet, it's very user friendly and it allows you to hear firsthand the strides made and challenges ahead to keep Forest Park a great place to live. Our By-Laws require 75 association members to attend to have a quorum. Our next regular meetings are scheduled for

OCTOBER 16, 2025 Board Meeting 9 AM OCTOBER 23, 2025 Membership Meeting 7 PM

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR By Paula Batson



Name and Street - Nina Lampert, Forest Park Drive Home State - Maryland How did you find Forest Park - Driving By Number of years in FP - 1 Month Children/Grandchildren/ Greats - 5/4/0 Career - Remote Office Administrator

Dream career - Medical Professional Favorite color - Purple Dogs or Cats - Dogs Sunrise or Sunset - Sunset Have you played a musical instrument - Violin/Cello Favorite band/artist - Dolly Parton

Best decade of your life - 20's,

Biggest thing you ever won - Cash Drawing Grand Prize

Favorite Florida restaurant - Smokin Pit North Fort Myers

If you could choose an anthem song for yourself what would it be - All my Rowdy Friends Hank Jr.

Opinion of garden gnomes - Could care less either way but love my Baltimore Ravens Gnome

MINI-VACATION

By Paula Batson



If you're looking to try your first cruise or just a fantastic short vacation, I highly recommend Celebrity Reflections, 3 night

Key West /Bahamas trip. https://www.celebritycruises. com This was just great, from the EZ trip over to Fort Lauderdale/Port Everglades and fast friendly boarding onto the ship. We stayed on Floor 10 midship with a balcony and concierge. The price was so reasonable and the room was spacious for 3 adults. Key West was our first stop and what a colorful fun place. We went to the Southernmost Point, first thing off the ship, to take



photos and cross off a bucket item. (Recommended as it gets very crowded as the day goes on). We got all our steps in there and back, lol and then hopped on the Old Town Trolley for the guided tour. \$57.00 pp. Our guide was so informative, we loved learning about the history of Key West, its famous

people, including Jimmy Buffet and Ernest Hemingway. The tour was around 75 minutes long. We then grabbed a quick lunch at a fresh catch local restaurant on the pier and we headed back on board for the day. You can opt

to eat all meals on board as it's all inclusive, the food was also great on the ship, but we wanted to try the local cuisine.

By the way, on a serious note concerning food, I give Celebrity another 10, for people with food allergies.They were top notch, made sure my son wasn't hungry, and his food was prepared with no chance of



cross contamination, which can be life threatening. The main dining room maître D was top notch. The waiters / waitresses were oh so friendly and on top of everything. For entertainment the two shows we went to in the evening were just super, fun music and a great magician/ comedian.

The next stop was Bimini Bahamas, where we chose to do the beach club which offered beautiful pool areas and the beach. They had great music, (not too loud) and played a variety of music, which was just a great vibe all day. The shuttle was on time back and forth to the ship which overall was the perfect experience to compliment a relaxing day after Key West. Going in May was a great decision as the ship was not full and we never waited more than 5 minutes to do anything. This trip was roughly \$400.00 per person and so worth it. Enjoy some of the pictures and hopefully this will inspire you to consider taking a cruise again or for the first time !

WOOF, WAG, & WIGGLE "TEX"



Meet Tex, a 12 year old Rat Terrier B. (Writer's Note- "B" Rat Terriers are a mix of a little Jack Russell with shorter legs and stocky builds, "A" Rat Terrier's are taller legged and narrower slender build, both love hunting) Tex, lives on Shrub Lane North with his family, Gerry and Todd.

Tex was adopted out of the Cape Coral Animal shelter two years ago when his dad was volunteering there. He was previously in a shelter in Alabama for over a year waiting for his new home! Cape Coral takes dogs that are in overcrowded shelters and brings them to Florida to be adopted out. Tex luckily only waited 2 weeks to find his forever home with Gerry and Todd.

This healthy cutie's favorite treats are mini carrots and frozen green beans. His favorite toy is a squeaky dinosaur! He is a must stop for the UPS delivery man, who he patiently waits for daily. Whether or not his house is getting a delivery, Tex always gets his treat. He is a happy little guy who loves



everyone. Look for Tex when he is enjoying his golf cart rides around Forest Park with Dad and hanging out with his dog pals at the dog walk park.

Forest Park

LINE DANCE CLASSES By Ellen Heigham



Thanks to everyone who came out to dance with me this year! See you next fall!

For more info call Ellen 617 448 1748

HELPING HANDS

By Lenan Crisci



You may reach Lenann at 207-705-2256

Forest Park Craft Club By Carole Beconder



I wish everyone a safe and healthy Summer. We will resume meeting in the fall.

Carole Beconder 330-726-9776

History of Forest Park by Dale Monette

Paying Off The Mortgage, 1997-1999,

In the early 70's the Fort Myers News Press carried a quote from Thomas A. Edison on its front page - "There is only one Fort Myers and 90 million people are going to find it out." It was a time when the only way into the city of Ft. Myers from the north via Business 41 was a two lane drawbridge over the Caloosahatchee River known as the Edison Bridge. The entrance to Ft. Myers Beach was a stone arch greeting visitors over its drawbridge. A large plate of fresh Gulf shrimp to enjoy on the beach could be gotten for just ninety-five cents. Weaver's Corner (now a strip mall) was the site of a motel with an old-time gas station at Bayshore Rd. and US 41.

Land was being cleared on Hart Rd. by developer, Mr. Larry Sickler, for development of a new mobile home park where residents would own their land with a monthly maintenance fee of fifteen dollars for use of the amenities. By 1972, the first residents were in place and the subdivision eventually expanded to over 400 home sites.

In 1990, Mr. Sickler offered the park, which included its own sewage plant, for sale and the residents immediately voted, through the Forest Park Property Owners Association (FPPOA), to purchase the park for the sum of 1.3 million dollars. Solicitation among the residents for three thousand dollars each resulted in a sum to qualify for a mortgage on the balance and the purchase was completed. As the months and years progressed, more residents continued to purchase shares in the FPPOA which helped reduce the existing mortgage balance. The mortgage was finally paid off in 1999. (Refer to last month's newsletter). However the sewage plant, which was located in the area south of the clubhouse and pool, was not able to meet new environmental regulations and was removed. In 1992, Forest Park had to connect to a new sewage system at an individual cost to all the property owners. Removal of the sewage plant opened up more land to use. In later years, landscaping was done, a walking path around the perimeter was put in place and a miniature golf course and putting green was completed in 2014.

PINE TREE KNOTS QUILT CLUB By Cindy Trepanier



As our season has ended the quilt club is asking for help. If you know of someone in the park that has cancer, an illness or surgery, please let the office know. We give quilts to let them know we are thinking of them and a quilt is like a warm hug during

this trying time.

We will start back in November on Thursdays at 9:00. No matter the level, beginner to skilled, everyone is welcome. I always learn something new each week from the group. We discuss issues and techniques. We have fabric and machines to make park quilts, so please join us.

"THE PETAL PUSHERS" GARDEN CLUB By Teri Snyder

We are officially finished for this season. We had a very successful first year and look forward to getting back together with everyone in October. For those members who are here year round, we will be getting together from time to time to maintain the plants and flowers in the Park during the summer months to ensure they stay looking nice.

Thanks for a great first season and see everyone next October.

Terri Snyder at 716-939-0627 or stop by 459 Jacaramba Ct.





HOW DO YOU SAY EUCHRE? By Kathy Revels

Have you ever even seen the word? If you are from the Midwest, Upstate New York, or Canada you probably know that



"you-ker" is a trick taking card game that cannot be fully explained in this short article. I apologize in advance to Forest Park Euchre enthusiasts as I am certainly no expert, and only hope to help generate some interest in one of the lesser known activities available to those looking for a new challenge.

There are, of course, variations to the card game that was mentioned in documents as early as 1810. The earliest surviving published rules are from 1844. Generally, there are two teams of two playing with 24-32 standard playing cards. Here, in Forest Park, we use 24 cards, from the 9 through the Ace of all four suits.

As with most games, this one has a language of its own. There is also a favored method of dealing, each player receives five cards, leaving four cards in the "blind". One card is displayed face up, or turned up on top of the undistributed cards as the "trump" or "suit" card. Some people refer to this variation as "Turn-Up Euchre". This suit may end up being accepted or discarded based on the hands of the players. Each player may "order" the turned up card as "trump," but the dealer gets to pick up the ordered card and discard a card. If no one wants the turned up card as "trump", then the dealer turns the card back over and the decision moves around the table for other players to declare a trump suit. Whoever orders "trump" requires that team to take three of the five "tricks" to score one point. This is where the strategy of winning the game begins. The "Jack" of trump becomes the highest and most powerful card, while the "Jack" of the same colored "Off Suit" becomes the next highest card followed by the Ace, King, Queen, etc.

Each player lays down one of his five cards in a single round, a trick, based on the suit of the round hoping to win by having the highest value card. Players must follow suit, if possible. The cards you are dealt are, of course, by chance. A perfect Euchre hand would be the Right and Left Bower (Jacks), followed by the Ace, King, and Queen in the same suit. If a team takes all five tricks they receive two points. A player may choose to play the round alone, without the help of a partner. If that player takes all five tricks the team receives four points. A game is finished after each player has dealt twice.

The order in which you play the cards, the tactics of winning, must be explained by the masters. You may

just find some gathered around tables in the Forest Park Activities Building on Wednesday evenings between October and May. I'm sure they would be happy to share their love of Euchre and teach you all but their most secret strategies for winning.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:



Mr Editor,

To our Board of Directors: What is happening to our once beautiful park? A couple months ago the front entrance sign was repainted and it looks beautiful. Now the shrubs in

front and to the North are dying or have already died. Apparently due to lack of water. I have not seen our sprinkler system operating anywhere on the common ground all spring. The weeds are taking over our lawns due to the lack of water this summer. I understand that our maintenance personnel have been off work for medical reasons, but aren't the sprinklers on a timer? Why has this been neglected? Where is the money going to come from to replace these shrubs? Our Reserve Budget shows we have Fifteen Thousand Dollars budgeted for Landscaping Refurbish, but not until 2030. Can this

money be appropriated sooner? Or will we, and everyone that drives up and down Hart Road be looking at these **DEAD** shrubs for the next 5 years? The rainy



season has started, but these shrubs are not coming back. Will someone be applying weed killer and fertilizing the common area lawns? What has our Board of Directors been doing?

Anonymous

TOOL CLUB BY Monte Johnson



The Tool Club is not meeting again until October. We will be continuing to accept

monetary and tool donations throughout the summer months. We are still planning on having our Hotdog dinners and other events beginning in October for raising funds to find a different home for the tool club.

If you have any questions or wish to join or donate, please reach out to Bob Carson 607-857-0320, Jerry Waters 217-361-7736, Mark Snyder 716-939-0237, or Monte Johnson 319-415-2816.

Library News By Maureen Hesketh

The Forest Park Library has been stocked with all the best reading selections for your summer entertainment..



Mysteries, tear-jerkers and

true life dramas to keep you occupied on a hot summer night. Come and browse anytime..

Your librarian, Maureen Hesketh 508-962-5979

FOREST PARK SAYS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

The NEIGHBORHOOD

PATROL needs more <u>volunteers</u> to step up to patrol and protect our Park this summer season. If enough people sign up, it may only require a one night per month commitment. Contact Gloria Restko at 813-841-9920



WATCH/NIGHT

The Red Hatters will need a new I WANT YOU leader for next season. Contact Heather Flavin at 508-612-6386

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS!! By Monte Johnson

The Social Club wants to wish everyone a **Happy Independence Day**. Enjoy the July 4th weekend, but

remember that **FIREWORKS ARE PROHIBITED IN FOREST PARK!!** Your neighbor may be a veteran suffering from PTSD, or have a pet that becomes anxious and agitated at the sound of fireworks. Some of us are early to bed and don't want to listen to firecrackers or M80's going off after dark. **QUIET HOURS IN THE PARK HAVE CHANGED. QUIET TIME BEGINS AT 10:00 PM AND ENDS AT 7:00 AM.**



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH/ NIGHT PATROL By Gloria Restko



Forest Park is especially vulnerable to criminal activity during the summer months. Did you know that



less than 30% of our homes are occupied from May through September? We currently have openings for volunteers to patrol our streets on the first, second and fourth Sunday nights, every Tuesday and Thursday night, the first Wednesday night,

the first and fourth Friday night, and the third Saturday night.

I would like to recognize Greg Sadowski and Bill Burrough/Patty Weseman. Greg is patrolling an extra two nights per week and Bill/Patty are patrolling an extra night each week, in addition to what they normally have volunteered to patrol. This is to protect our park from criminal activity.

We would like to see more volunteers for the summer night patrol come on board. Our faithful winter residents have gone back North so we are in DESPERATE need of more night patrol volunteers to keep Forest Park safe from intruders.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR RESIDENTS FOR VOLUNTEERING

Gloria Restko 813-841-9920



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES *by Monte Johnson*



All articles, news or photographs should \overline{AR} be submitted to this email fpsocialnews@

gmail.com and are normally due by the 12th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

Remember, newsletters are printed year-round for all residents and always available for snowbirds online. Printed Newsletters usually arrive by the end of the month and are available in the Clubhouse or in the Activities building. They are always available online a few days later. Some months the Newsletter has more articles submitted, which may cause a favorite puzzle or Sudoku to be omitted for that month. These are fillers that the publisher supplies. <u>The editor has no</u> <u>control over the filler puzzles or games!</u>





EDITOR THOUGHTS By Monte Johnson

Baseball season is in full swing and the All Star game will be played in Atlanta on July 15th. I know we have quite a number of baseball fans that reside in the park. I

see bumper stickers and license plates for the Cardinal's, Cub's, Blue Jay's, Met's, Red Sox, and Yankee's. To name the one's I've seen.

To say I live for the baseball season would be an understatement. I was born a Chicago Cubs fan. My paternal grandfather, who passed before I was born, was a Cubs fan. He was born in 1891 and lived his life during the Cubs glory years. My father was born in 1924, so he grew up while the Cubs were winning a few National League pennants, but never witnessed a Cubs World Series victory. On the other hand, I was witness to the futility of being a Cubs fan during the first sixty three years of my life.

If you're a baseball fan, then you need to have Fenway Park and Wrigley Field on your bucket list. Fenway is still on my list, but in 1961, at the age of 7, I went to my first Cubs game at Wrigley Field. You see, being an Iowa farm boy meant getting up at the crack of dawn to milk the cows, feed the hogs, and clean the barn and hog houses by hand. Even at 7, I had chores to do. So on a Sunday morning in June, 1961, we were up way before the Sun to do the chores, then drive the 5 hours to Chicago. The Interstate Highway system had not yet reached Iowa, so two lane Highway 20 was our route. This required going through Dubuque, Iowa, Galena, Freeport, Rockford, and several other smaller, Illinois towns. Winding through 55 miles of curves and hills from Galena to Freeport on old, narrow, curbed Highway 20, was interesting. As were the streets of Chicago, with all the stop lights, before the freeway system.

Arriving at beautiful Wrigley Field for a Sunday double header against the Milwaukee Braves was the thrill of a lifetime. My first recollection of baseball was at about the age of four or five, sitting on my dads lap at night as he listened through the static of a Cubs game on 720, WGN am from Chicago. I had seen Wrigley Field on our black and white television, but the first time going up the ramp and seeing the red brick and green ivy covered outfield walls and the huge green manual scoreboard in centerfield is breathtaking. Back then, no one went to see the Cubs. P.K. Wrigley, the Cubs owner, kept 22,000 unreserved grandstand seats available for purchase every game day. Those seats only cost \$2.50 each, for a doubleheader! I drank coke, ate hotdogs, frosty malts, and cheered for the Cubs until I was so hoarse I couldn't speak. Dad bought me a Cubs cap and a pennant. I was witness to Hank Aaron, Eddie Matthews, Warren Spahn, Ernie Banks, Billy Williams, and Ron Santo, all Hall of Fame players. I was hooked!! The Cubs split the two games and we had to leave before the end to the second game to beat the traffic. We arrived back at the farm around nine o'clock and those cows were waiting, bags full and udders ready to burst. We had to milk before we could retire for the night, just to wake up the next morning and start the cycle of farming all over again.

Every year from 1961 through 1969 we repeated the trip once every year for a Sunday double header or a weekend to Wrigley Field, Chicago, to see my beloved Cubs. Deb and I were married in 1973 and soon thereafter I took her to her first Cubs game. Since then I have taken my sons and they have taken their sons to Wrigley Field and other ballparks. Finally, on my great grandfather Christian, and my son Chads' birthday, at 12:37 am, November 3, 2016, after 108 years of losing, pigs flew, I raised the "W" flag over our home in Iowa, and the Cubs won the World Series! I now have five great grandsons and someday I hope I can take them to a Cubs game at beautiful Wrigley Field.

KARAOKE

Karaoke with Chris Tybor is held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, October-May from **7-9pm Note the time!!** BYOB and snacks.!! We need more talented people to come out and



enjoy an evening of free entertainment with your friends in the park. Bring your singing voices and a list of songs that you would like to sing, or just sit back and listen. Forest Park has many good singers. Hope to see you there.

TUESDAY NIGHT BINGO

Don't forget to come on out for our weekly Bingo in the Clubhouse.



Be there at 6:45 pm, games start at 7:00 pm. Lots of

Fun!!! No ink daubers needed, we provide all supplies. Bring your own snacks and nonalcoholic drinks.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Diana Prittinen 2 Judith Collar 2 Fran Craven 3 Brita Mulholland 03 Theresa Snyder 6 Dana Kyes Haskell 6 Glenda Alfano 7 Mary Neidhart 07 Bernie Waltz 12 Rodney Christenson 12 Jeanette Flood 12 David Layne 12 Joyce Parsels 14 Reese Evans 14 Dee DesBois 14 Timothy Waltz 16 Mary Siegel 16 Stephanie Calvert 16 Kenneth Calvert 17 Michael Jacobsen 18 Theresa Hall 18 Rick Foote 19 John Hill 20 Kristie Springer 20

Milton Herrick 21 Pam Crain 21 Darlene Kurucz 21 Monte Johnson 22 Carol Geppert 24 David Schepers 24 Shelley Hillman 25 Linda Meyer 26 Caroline DeShaw 28 Michael Hall 30 Edward Fisher 31 Ralph Fiore 31



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Anton & Patti Kothe July 3, 1966 Jeffrey & Susan Hough July 6, 2013 Brian & Kathy Revels July 8, 1978 Jeffrey Pierce & Nancy Wilder-Pierce July 11, 2020 John & Glenda Alfano July 15, 1972 Carrol & Patsy Provence July 15, 1968 Brian Hafer & Wendy Henderson July 22, 2019 Michael & Pamela Hall July 22, 2003 Ann & Dick Teal July 30, 1960 Edward & Marga Eads July 31, 1957

WELCOME TO FOREST PARK

Jeffrey and Susan Hough, 219 Shrub Ln N, Ohio



James Pierce, 5370 Forest Park Drive New Jersey

IN MEMORIAM

Lottie Mae Smith August 9th, 1933 - May 7th, 2025

Lottie was born in Porter, Oklahoma in 1933, to Silas and Minnie Childress. Her family moved to Wenatchee, Washington when she was little. She later moved to Michigan to work as a bookkeeper/office manager at a car dealership.

She married James E Smith (preceded in death) on June 7th, 1958. They had 3 children, Loren (Dawn), James H (Linda), and Patricia. She has 7 grandchildren, April, Melissa, Kristina, Robert, Kathrine, Jennifer, and Jessica. She has 5 great grandchildren, Brianna, Ethan James, Declan, Ethan Henry, and Zoey. She also has 1 great great granddaughter Brynn.

Funeral arrangements and internment will be at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan on Monday July 14th at 12:30pm. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Hope Hospice.



TAI CHI CLASS by Lenann Crisci

Tai Chi Has ended for the summer and will resume again in the fall.

Watch for an announcement in the newsletter later on.

CONTACT: LENANN CRISCI 207-705-2256

EXERCISE CLASS By Jane Cullin



lemory

Exercise class is every Monday, 8:00 am to 9:00 am is cardio weights

and core. Bring a matt or towel. Exercise Class will resume in the fall. Watch for announcements in the Newsletter..

RED HAT LADIES *By Heather Flavin*



Red Hats has completed their Spring 2025 season. I hope all of you have a great, safe and healthy summer season.

I am stepping down from running the Red Hats and a **NEW** LEADER is needed. Please contact me with any questions.

HEATHER FLAVIN 508-612-6386



FOREST PARKS HOME CHURCH "THE LIGHT" By Roberta Rizas

Hello Forest Park neighbors,

Though most of you have left to spend your summers in Northern states, we look

forward to your returning in the fall. Forest

Park Church, "The Light", will still meet on Sundays at 6:00 pm at 457 Jacaramba Ct.

This month I am sharing the last half of an article that I began last month. I hope you saved the June Newsletter and enjoyed reading it. Thank You for taking the time and I pray you will take the time to share it with others. Great information! See you in August.

"YOU ARE NO ACCIDENT, GOD CHOSE YOU!

Look at when this selection took place. Paul says it occurred "...before the foundation of the world...." The word "foundation" is the Greek word katabole, a compound of the words kata and bole. The word kata means down, and the word bole means to hurl or to throw. These two words together mean to forcibly hurl something down, and it refers to the act of creation.

Thus, before God ever spoke the earth into existence - before His booming voice ever called out for the first layers of the earth's crust to be put into place - He had already spoken our names! He selected and elected us before the very first layers of the earth were created.

In light of these Greek meanings, Ephesians 1:4 could be phrased to read:

"When God saw us, He said, 'Out, I say!' In that moment, He separated us from the rest of the world and enlisted us in His service. And think of it! He did all of this before He ever hurled the first layers of the earth's crust into existence...."

So if your flesh ever tries to rant and rave that you're not worthy enough to be used or that you're just an accident, you need to take authority over your flesh and tell it to shut its stupid mouth! Then you need to declare, "God chose me, and He planned a great future for me. He wants to use me. I'm not going to listen anymore to this foul garbage from my lying flesh and unrenewed emotions. I have an awesome destiny! In fact, I'm a significant part of God's plan!"

Don't listen to your filthy, stinking, lying, fibbing flesh anymore! God has been waiting for your arrival for a very long time! It's time for you to accept His assignment and make the necessary changes to flow with His program. He's calling out to you all the time, saying, "Get up and jump in the race! I want you. I'm calling you to be a part of My team.

There is too much at stake for you to make the mistake of sitting around and feeling sorry for yourself. You'll only begin to experience true significance when you accept the fact that God has chosen you, and when you begin to live up to the glorious calling He has placed on your life! No matter how large or small the task, no matter how big or tiny the assignment, joy and satisfaction will be yours when you start accomplishing what God brought you into this world to do."

This is what imparts true significance to any person's life. No satisfaction compares with this satisfaction. Those who contribute nothing to life are usually the ones who struggle with a sense of purposelessness.

Even if you think your gifts are small in comparison to others, you can still use them! If you use the gifts God gave you, they will increase. And the more proficient you become at using those gifts, the more valuable you will become to your family, your church, your business, and your friends. On the other hand, you will cause your life to be inconsequential if you ignore the gifts God gave you and minimize the life assignment He has entrusted to you.

A person's life becomes pointless when he or she contributes nothing to the world. Don't let that describe YOUR life! God didn't bring you into the world so you would live a pointless and inconsequential life! He has a purpose for your life. He wants to use YOU! He wants YOU to be a significant part of His plan!

MY PRAYER FOR TODAY

Lord, we are so glad that You knew us and called us even before we were conceived when in our mother's womb. According to Your Word, we are not a mistake; therefore, we ask You to help us start looking at our lives with respect, esteem, and honor. You called us, and You have an awesome plan for our lives. We ask You to help us uncover that plan so we can get started on the road of obedience toward the fulfillment of what You brought us into this world to do! We pray this in Jesus' name!

MY CONFESSION FOR TODAY

I boldly declare that I am no accident and no mistake! God knew me before the earth was created; He called me before I was formed in my mother's womb; and He has long awaited my arrival on planet earth! God has a plan for me! I am purposeful; I am respectful of myself; and I walk in a way that honors the One who called and anointed me to be enlisted in His service!

I declare this by faith in Jesus' name!



QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

- 1. Have you ever been tempted to think that your life was pointless and inconsequential? What happens in your life most often that triggers these negative emotions?
- 2. Can you think of a time when you were supernaturally illuminated to the call of God in your life? When that happened, what did you understand was the chief purpose that God had for you in this lifetime?
- 3. If you have been struggling with feelings of purposelessness or of inferiority toward other people, what are you going to do to stop these negative emotions from affecting you in an adverse way?

The thoughts and opinions expressed in the preceding article are the opinions of the writer and do not represent the opinions of Forest Park or the **Newsletter staff!**

Notes of Cheer

By Robyn Johnson



The Social Club provides the stamps, and they rely on residents to donate sympathy and get-well cards so if you have any to donate

please let Heather know. Also, if you know of any resident needing Cheer, please reach out to Heather or myself so she can send a card. Including the person's address is appreciated.

You may email Heather at tokentrespasser@ gmail.com or myself at drjohns85@gmail.com If you're new here, Heather Flavin is the

cheer person for Forest Park. Heather will



send out cards to residents that have been ill, had surgery or have lost a loved one.

Heather Flavin 508-612-6386 or Robyn Johnson 651-341-8346

RESIDENTS NEED TO REMEMBER:

• **Speeding** – The park has many walkers and bike riders, please obey the speed limits. The speeding near the Pool, Pickle Ball and Clubhouse area has truly become a danger! Members pull in and **DOW** out of the area regularly on golf carts



and bicycles, they will have no protection against a speeding vehicle. Throughout the Park our Posted Speed Limit is 15 MPH.

Rolling through Stop Signs – Each intersection is clearly marked; our park is no different than a regular road. The only difference is you could be hurting your neighbor or their family. Take it easy and obey the Stop Signs.



- Unattended Guests in the Pool Guests should have a **GREEN WRISTBAND** when using the pool. When asked, they should know the address of the member they're visiting. Please be vigilant.
- Unsightly Property Be proud of your home. Keep your siding free of mold and mildew by



power washing. Keep your lawn mowed and hedges trimmed. Be courteous to your neighbors. Be safe with unexpected storms.

Forest Park Green Car Stickers - We are back in season, we have night patrol in place to keep you and your property under a watchful eye. Cars on property without a green Forest Park Sticker on the back of



the vehicle will be noted by the team and sent to the office. Stickers are available for FREE in the office. Using the identifiers helps us know if we have strangers in the park. This is to protect all of us. Visitors are required to have a sticker. If you don't want it stuck on your back window, tape it up on the inside. I see many vehicles without these stickers.

Late Trash Set Outs – All trash needs to be set out before 7am on Tuesday. Second rounds of trash pickup for late set outs are costly and really overworks our Maintenance Team if it gets too hot. Your trash can be put out the evening before if in a secured trash can.



- Late HOA Fees Please do your best to send your HOA fee in by the 1st of the month. It's also important to make your check payable for the exact amount of your HOA Fee rounding up or down adds additional work for our accounting team.
- Quiet Time/Lawn Mowing Our rules for Quiet Time are 10PM to 7AM.YEAR ROUND Please be respectful of your neighbors!



• HAZARDOUS WASTE

Lee County has very strict regulations regarding hazardous material disposal. The Board voted to approve the initiative to have all residents place



paint, pesticides, chemicals, fluorescent bulbs and gas bottles at the curb. Park employees will pick up these materials on regular trash pickup days and log them in. These articles will be stored and disposed of in the appropriate manner by staff members.

Aluminum Cans are still being collected on Monday

evenings only. Please DO NOT use the can as an ashtray. Beer Drinkers, please rinse out the can and turn it over to dry out. Please remember to put your aluminum cans in a bag and



place UNDER YOUR MAILBOX by 5:00 P.M. MONDAY EVENING for pick up. Please make sure your cans are RINSED, CLEAN, and DRY.

- Please place it away from trash bags. DO NOT place plastic, glass or metal cans in the bag,
- *Aluminum cans only!* All the others go in the blue recycle bins. If you are putting your aluminum cans out on Friday for the recycle truck, **PLEASE** consider putting your cans in a bag on Monday evening for pickup. Money collected from can recycling helps pay some of the costs of Social Club activities. It benefits all residents of Forest Park.
- Improper Use of Dumpsters Dumpsters are CLEARLY marked. It's dangerous for the Maintenance Team to climb into the dumpster to retrieve improperly dumped items. Contractors working on your home are also required to take the debris with them off site.

ATTENTION

The following rules still apply, only household trash is allowed in the compactor, all cardboard should be set out on Friday for recycle, no horticulture, construction materials, or bulk



items. Bulk items include any furniture, cushions, bulky pillows or life jackets. Any Aluminum may be placed near the workbench in front of the horticulture dumpster for recycling, (this includes aluminum framed lawn chairs, pop-up tent frames, carport roofs, or gutters that are aluminum. Appliances go in the metal trailer parked southwest of the compactor. If it is not regular household trash, horticulture, appliances, aluminum, or construction materials, it is a BULK ITEM. The dumpsters are clearly marked. If the gate is locked, PLEASE lock the gate when you leave, to keep unauthorized people out of the R/V Park!! If you notice a vehicle in the R/V area, without a green tree sticker, PLEASE notify the office or if after hours call a board member or the sheriffs office. These people are trespassing, leaving unauthorized refuse, and costing everyone in the park more money!!!

<u>Notice the RED BUTTON on the controller.</u> <u>This is for emergencies only.</u> <u>DO NOT TOUCH THE RED BUTTON!!</u>

Forest Park does not have a **Dog Walk, Run,** or **Park.** Florida law states that your dog must be on no longer than a six foot leash at all times. This is for the protection of our residents and other pets in the Park. Many of you have **"adopted" feral cats**. Have you had them neutered? While on night patrol I see many cats just running free in the Park. People who do not clean up after their dog, or are letting their cats roam free in the Park, are affecting the health of us and other pets. Who wants to step in dog or cat feces?





Forest Park





