

January 2026

[www.forestparkonline.com](http://www.forestparkonline.com)

# Forest Park Newsletter

Forest Park, N. Ft. Myers, FL

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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

*By Heather Flavin*



### VOLUNTEERS ARE ESSENTIAL TO FOREST PARK



If you have stopped into the office at the activity building you've probably been greeted by one of these nice ladies. They donate their time to perform administrative tasks to assist the main office and the residents. You'll see them answering calls, preparing paperwork for our FPPOA meetings, collating mass mailings to be sent out to residents, and providing green pine tree stickers for your vehicles. They keep busy with data entry, updating addresses, providing the Cheer Person with out-of-state addresses to send those caring cards. Their assistance is an integral part of keeping things running smoothly.

*Front row: L. to R. Moe Hesketh and Laurene Armstrong. Back row: L. to R.: Gloria Hartz, Linda Meyer, and Jane Cullin. Jane is part time and Diana Prittinen is not pictured.*

Gloria and Mike Hartz have been in the park for 11 years.

Linda and Wayne Meyer came into the park in 2020.

Moe and Don Hesketh have been here for six years.

Janet Mencer started coming to Forest Park 18 years ago and eventually took over her sister's home.

Diana Prittinen will be starting her 19th year here.

Jane and Kerry Cullin moved in for their winters here in 2018.

Laurene Armstrong has been here from Huntsville, Ontario since 2017.

Special thanks must be given to Laurene, she has stepped up and given so much of her time to assist the main office. Your time and hard work are greatly appreciated.



Forest Park is reliant on volunteers. It would be beneficial to generate a larger group of volunteers for these clerical tasks. If you're looking to assist our park and think the office might be a good fit for you, please stop by and talk with one of these helpful ladies. Hours are 9-12 Mon – Fri.

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**PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP AWARD WINNERS***By Forest Park Compliance Committee***January Winners**

**Ray, Cheri, & Monroe Lau**  
**701 Palm Frond Ct**



**Don & Maureen (Moe) Hesketh**  
**Twig Court South**



In the spirit of recognizing how far we have come and encouraging each other, we will highlight Forest Park homes displaying "Pride of Ownership." 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.



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**PLEASE VOTE JANUARY 8TH!  
 SAMPLE BALLOT BELOW**

**\*\*\*2026 BOD ELECTION BALLOT/  
 ABSENTEE BALLOT\*\*\***

**ELECTION OF FPPOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Thursday, January 8, 2026**

**9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Clubhouse**

**\*\*\*\*\*Please select candidates by marking an (X) next to their name\*\*\*\*\***

**OR print write-in candidates' name legibly on the blank line and Indicate your choice with an (X) next to their name.**

**FOR THE POSITION OF:**

**President (2026-2028): (2 Year Term) (Vote for ONE)**

**( ) BARBARA BATSON-PASSOS**

**( )**

**2nd Vice President (2026-2028) (2 Year Term) (Vote for ONE)**

**( ) BRIAN HAVER**

**( )**

**Treasurer (2026-2028) (2 Year Term) (Vote for ONE)**

**( ) CINDY TREPANIER**

**( )**

**Director No 2 (2023-2026) 1 year of a 3 year term (Vote for ONE)**

**( ) KEN PARSELS**

**( )**

**Director No 4 (2023-2026) (1 year of a 3 Year term) (Vote for ONE)**

**( ) MIKE HALL**

**( )**

**Director No 5 (2026-2029) (3 Year Term) (Vote for ONE)**

**( ) BARRY SIMES**

**( )**

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## COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Hello All!

Hope everyone had a Happy Holiday! The Park is looking very good and we are pleased that so many people have commented on it. A lot of our seasonal residents are back and working on their homes. It's great to see, but please have plans in place when returning North, not only for your grass, but weeds and trees. Your year round neighbors AND people that may want to sell really appreciate properties that are kept up. We have several properties that Lee County has gotten involved with - so they are out and about and checking things in the Park. We would also like to remind EVERYONE that all pets must be registered in the Office with proof of license and rabies. This includes guests' pets. The Compliance Committee has made a QUICK RULE REFERENCE SHEET. This is available in the Office and we recommend ALL residents have one for you and your guests to review. We have had several incidents of non residents/guests using our amenities - PLEASE make sure your guests are using green wrist bands . All owners have the authority to question if you live in the Park. Please be courteous if asked. As always we have complaint/ comment and suggestion sheets available in the Office. Looking forward to a great season in Forest Park.

*Compliance Committee*

*Barbara Batson Passos, Lucinda King, Warren Starks, Heather Flavin, Kevin Mann*

### TIME TO CLEANUP THE R/V PARK

*By FPPOA, INC.*

Our R/V Park looks more like a dump than an R/V storage area. The amount of **Paint Cans** that have accumulated near the trash compactor is unacceptable. Cans of paint may be disposed of after drying the paint out by using paint hardener you can buy locally or use cheap kitty litter. Once it is no longer a liquid, paint may be disposed of as a solid waste in our construction bin. You will need to ensure the paint is hardened before putting it in the construction bin.

**Used Tires ARE NOT** to be left in the R/V Park. If you are getting new tires installed on your golf cart, you are required to dispose of your old tires by either paying the installer to take the tires, or you need to take the tires to the landfill.

Horticulture is to be put into **PAPER BAGS**, not plastic garbage bags, to be thrown in the Horticulture Bin.

**Cardboard DOES NOT** go in the trash compactor, or anywhere in the R/V Park. Waste Pro will conveniently pick it up at the front of your house on Friday,

The R/V Park is home to rusting utility trailers, moldy

campers and motorhomes that are an eyesore to behold. You know who you are! If you have a utility trailer that you only use once or twice a year, sell it and rent one. Let someone else have a space. Is your **Camper or Motorhome** covered in **Mold or Mildew? PLEASE WASH IT.** Are your tires flat or are you leaking fluid, you are violating the rules of the R/V Park.

Your board of directors made a decision to no longer pick up bulk furniture items at the curb because of budget constraints. Are you aware that every time **Waste Pro** comes for a **pick up, the charge is \$250?** Many useful pieces of furniture are being hauled to the R/V Park for Waste Pro to haul to the landfill.

All these issues harm the environment, and cost the Park extra dollars every month, which is reflected in your monthly maintenance fee increasing every January.

Instead of breaking your back, or hiring someone to haul your bulk items to the R/V Park. Save your money and your back, **Carport Sales are Saturday, January 31** and the **Trash to Treasure Sale is Saturday, February 7.** Or please call one of the charitable organizations listed below to come to your house to pick up your gently used furniture and household items!

**Your Trash is someone's Treasure, don't discard, Donate your gently used Furniture and Household Items**

Habitat for Humanity

239-652-1699



Fort Myers Salvation Army

(Goodwill)

239-337-0955

St Matthews House

239-774-3315

St Vincent de Paul Thrift Store of Cape Coral

239-573-0229 or 239-573-0217

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239-985-9813

All Souls Episcopal Thrift Store

239-656-6229

Step of Faith Ministries Thrift Store

239-599-2907

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## 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

January 9, 2026 Board Meeting 9 AM  
 January 15, 2026 Board Meeting 9 AM  
 January 22, 2026 Membership Meeting 7 PM

## EDITOR THOUGHTS

*By Monte Johnson*



As we embark on the second year of the second quarter of the 21st century, 2026 will be another important year for Forest Park. This month you have an opportunity to elect a new President and five board directors to lead our park. We have a refurbished swimming pool, replacing the last of the galvanized metal storm drain pipes may be finished yet this year, the core sampling and engineering plans for rebuilding our streets are in progress.

The core sampling showed that our streets are in poor to fair condition. The streets have been overlaid with one inch of asphalt on four different occasions, the last time in 2004. The streets have not had any seal coating or maintenance in over twenty years. In some areas the base under the asphalt has broken down, necessitating a total rebuild, while in other areas the asphalt just needs to be ground down and new asphalt overlaid to facilitate the proper drainage of storm water to the newer drainage pipes. The most recent estimates for rebuilding the streets was in June of 2024. That estimate was \$830,000. It will take multiple years to complete a rebuild of our streets. Our opening balance for the 2026 Reserve Fund Budget is less than \$560,000. The streets are one of seventy one items that require funds to be allocated on an annual basis to maintain the assets of our park, as required by our governing documents. The daunting task facing our board is how to make the monthly fee of \$122.00 per single lot pay for our monthly operating expenses and have enough left over to fund all seventy one items on our Reserve Fund Budget.

Our refurbished pool was given a new lease on life expectancy of 20 more years. It will have reached the end of its life at that time. The estimate that was received to replace our pool with a pool that would meet current pool codes was \$804,000 at today's costs. With inflation in twenty years at a 3% inflation rate, that new pool will cost over \$1,400,000. Our current Reserve Fund Budget that was just approved, calls for an annual contribution of \$140,000 in 2026 and \$145,000 in each of the next nine years thereafter. Needing to pay for a new pool in twenty years will require over \$70,000 per year contributed into the reserve fund each year for twenty years. Look at the Reserve Fund Budget. There are currently seventy one items listed that require an annual contribution towards their replacement when they reach the end of their useful life. If you have followed thus far, some simple math will

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show that an annual contribution of \$70,000 to the pool only leaves approximately \$70,000 remaining for the other seventy items that require an annual contribution.

The board of directors will have some tough decisions to make in the next few years. Our property values will continue to go down as our streets deteriorate if they are not rebuilt. Our Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs) are prohibiting us from keeping up with the costs of maintaining the park by limiting the amount the association can charge our members on a monthly basis. The board has cut services, trimmed costs, and saved on expenses wherever possible, but it is time that our governing documents be brought up to the 21st Century, allowing the board to reserve the funds required to have perpetual existence as required in Article II of the By-Laws.



a bowl of soup and a slice of cornbread. The price of admission is \$5 at the door. Hope to see you there!

Candidates have been recruited and the 10 openings have been filled.

Meet your contestants: Jeff Rogers, Becki Tybor, Jane Cullin, Arline Bennett, Kevin Mann, Barry Simes, Heather Flavin, Teri Snyder, & Deb Johnson.

Hosts: Sally Miller 527-282-8200 Pam Salk  
260-385-6407

## FOREST PARKS HOME CHURCH "THE LIGHT"

*By Roberta Rizas*



Forest Park's home church, "The Light", wishes all our FP residents a, HAPPY NEW YEAR. We pray it will be your best year ever. You are invited to join us any Sunday night at 6 p. m. at 457 Jacaramba Ct. We would love to meet you.

WOW! The start of another New Year..2026!

I do not know what the future holds, but I DO know who holds the future!! As the new year has approached, we may be tempted to speculate about what the future holds. Will there be challenges and trials? Unexpected blessings? Thinking about the future can seem like unraveling an intricate mystery, but the Word of God assures us that God reveals exactly what we need to know.

As we look to the new year, we may try to gain a sense of control over the unknown by planning, setting goals, or making resolutions. But most of us realize that the future really lies outside of our control.

We can, however, trust God for what lies ahead. God sees everything that will happen, and he sees us as well. God doesn't encourage us to try to set our course. God encourages us to call on Him as we face the future and to anticipate an answer.

God has promised that he will be faithful. Be encouraged that he goes before you and follows close behind. His hand is lovingly directing your course. "Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." Jeremiah 33:3

God bless all of you residents and remember to pray for one another so that we might all have a blessed 2026.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

*By Kathy Revels*

### MUSHROOM AND BROWN RICE SOUP



1 T olive oil  
1 med onion  
10 oz sliced white mushrooms  
4 oz sliced wild mushrooms  
1 c shredded carrots  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
½ tsp salt  
¼ tsp dried thyme  
1/8 tsp pepper  
32 oz chicken broth  
¾ c instant brown rice

In a 4 qt saucepan, heat oil over medium high heat. Add onion and cook for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add mushrooms and carrots and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until golden and tender, stirring occasionally. Add garlic, salt, thyme and pepper and cook for 1 minute, stirring. Add broth, rice, and 2 cups water; cover and heat to boiling over high heat. Reduce heat to medium; cook partially covered, 5 minutes or until rice is tender. Makes about 8 cups.

## SUPER SOUP STANDOFF 2026

Announcing the 1st Semi-Annual soup contest to be held **Sunday, February 1st at 2pm in the Clubhouse**. The Chili cook-off will return next season and every alternate year we will host a Soup Standoff.

Residents are invited to sample, judge and then enjoy

## Forest Park

### WOOF, WAG, & WIGGLE

By Paula Batson

Meet Taryn!! A 3 yr old Mountain Feist. Never heard of that breed ?? Me either, lol. A little background on this lovable girl. The Mountain Feist is a small, energetic, American hunting dog known for its squirrel-hunting ability, developed from terrier-type dogs brought by immigrants. They are extremely smart and loyal dogs. Owned by Anne Bunney and

Brandon Christie, Taryn's story is one we have heard sadly over and over. Dumped with 4 other dogs in a rural part of Florida swamp land known as Heritage Lake, She was picked up and landed at the Cape Coral Animal Shelter. Four days after arriving, Taryn left the shelter

to go with Anne to her forever home. Splitting her time as a Snowbird, summers are spent in Minnesota, roaming free on the 6 acres her parents own and heading to the lake to chase waves. She is truly an outdoorsy girl. Anne says that she is so smart, that both Brandon and herself resort to spelling many of their words in a conversation,



so Taryn doesn't understand, haha. Her trick bag is endless and her favorite toy is her Boat Buoy. Most of the Forest Park residents know her from her golf cart accommodations that were built for her to ride around on, as she happily enjoys the view with her parents. Taryn is another blessed girl, who has been rescued, and is now living her best life here in our community.

### KITTY CORNER

By Paula Batson

Right:

Missy 4 years old

Loved by Dave and Cindy Roper

Knotty Pine Circle



Left:

Chewy 7 years old

Loved by "Coach",

Kerry and Jane Cullin

Timberlane North

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## A BUCKET LIST TRIP-----CHECKED OFF

By Heather Flavin



In May I travelled to Seattle to visit my cousin Mary Anne and see the beautiful Pacific Northwest (PNW) for the first time. For those that have been there, you know how stunning this region is.

While my cousin worked for a few days, I explored Seattle. I started off with a van tour, learning so much

about the city's history, museums, high tech workforces, The Great Seattle Fire of 1889 and how the term Skid Row originated. I ventured into Pike Place Market for shopping and some good seafood. This historic market is the longest continually operating farmer's market in the United States, which opened in 1907. The market is known for the fishmongers' throwing customers selected fish from the front of the store to the workers in the back to be wrapped up, all part of this popular customer service tradition.

Despite being afraid of heights, I checked out the Space Needle. Over 600 feet high, this tourist attraction opened in 1962 coinciding with the World's Fair in Seattle that year and the year I was born. The fair's theme was The Age of Space. The saucer shaped "top house" offers a 360-degree panoramic view of downtown Seattle, Mt. Rainier (on a good day), Puget Sound and the Cascades and Olympic Mountain ranges. Located below the Space Needle is Chihuly Gardens and Glass Museum. Showcasing the vibrant and imaginative large scale blown glass art of Dale Chihuly. His works can be found around the world.

Mary Anne and I went beneath the streets for the "Underground History Tour". The Great Seattle Fire destroyed over 100 acres of downtown. The fire prompted a massive rebuilding, changing the landscape. Raising the streets, leaving many businesses and store fronts underground. Our tour explored under Pioneer Square, where we wandered on dusty sidewalks, through subterranean stores, saloons and offices.

Olympic National Park and a stay at Sol Duc Hot Springs were on the weekend itinerary. A short ferry ride connected us to the peninsula and onto Highway 101. Snow capped mountains, lush evergreen forests and wildlife made for a beautiful ride to Sol Duc.

Sol Duc is a Native American word for "sparkling water". The healing properties of the mineral springs had

been well known to the local Native Americans. In the 1880's Theodore Moritz nursed a Native with a broken leg back to health. In gratitude the Native told Moritz of the "firechuck" or magic waters. Moritz staked a claim, built cedar log tubs and soon people were coming great distances to drink and bathe in the healing waters.

Michael Earls, the owner of Puget Sound Mills and Timber Company, claimed he was cured of a fatal illness after visiting Sol Duc. When Moritz died in 1909, Earls bought the land from his heirs and built a \$75,000 road to the springs from Lake Crescent. Three years later, on May 15th, 1912, an elegant hotel opened. This distinguished hotel catered to the wealthy and those seeking relief from their maladies with the help of the magic waters. Unfortunately, in early 1916, a defective chimney flue ignited the shake cedar shingling on the hotel roof. Water lines had not been turned on this early in the season and the posh hotel was consumed in flames in just three hours.

Today, the resort is more modest with cabins, camper parking, hiking trails, a small restaurant, gift shop and 3 mineral spring fed pools. Average temps 99 to 104. The freshwater pool nearby ranges in temps from 50 to 80 degrees and is ready for a cooling, refreshing dip. It was very active when we were there in May. Sitting in the 105-degree pool was relaxing, as the resort is surrounded by evergreens and some snow capped mountains. It was nice to not have cell service for a few days. The average daily temp in mid-May was about 50-55. I appreciated all the warm clothing I packed. Sweaters, turtlenecks, gloves, a down jacket and raincoat were all put into use.

Our final excursion was a whale watching tour out of Puget Sound and we lucked out. Seeing pods of orcas, one enormous gray whale and many California sea lions hanging out on buoys and docks. We learned that younger sea lions travel north to fatten up. To attract a cow and secure his territory, the bulls need to be up in weight, starting at about 600 lbs. and will often bulk up to 1000 pounds for breeding season.

I really enjoyed my trip and hope to get back there again. I have a few other places on my bucket list to get to first.

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**SOCIAL CLUB NEWS!!***By Nancy Cooper*

The Social Club would like to **Thank everyone** for coming out on December 19th for our annual gift give away. A special thanks to all the local merchants, realtors, residents, and clubs that make this event possible with their donations of gift cards and prizes.



The Social Club welcomes Paula Batson as Vice President and Kathy Revels as Co-Secretary, filling out the previously open Executive officer positions. These two ladies are also on the staff of the Newsletter as Feature Writers and Kathy is the Assistant Editor. When you see these ladies, please thank them for all they do as volunteers for the Park!

**MONTHLY MEETING****Friday, January 30th—1 P.M. —Activities Building**

Please join us as we discuss upcoming events and make plans for the 2026 season. The Social Club is your club. All Forest Park residents are members. Your support is welcomed and encouraged.

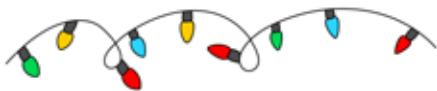
**Social Club Officers**

Co-Presidents	Ellen Heigham	eheimam@gmail.com	617-448-1748
	Barbara Batson-Passos	carouselfarms@yahoo.com	973-219-1044
1st Vice President	Paula Batson	shaht12@aol.com	201 874-4980
Co-Secretaries	Kathy Revels	kathy.revels@gmail.com	517-243-2755
	Nancy Cooper	floobme@gmail.com	207-632-7544
Co-Treasurers	Mary Kurucz	kuruczmary@gmail.com	740-310-3002
	Monte Johnson	fpsocialclubtreas@gmail.com	319-415-2816

**SUMMONING ALL ELVES!***By Joyce Hines*

Kudos to Joyce Parsels and her crew for decorating the clubhouse grounds and the front entry! Those who assisted Joyce were: Ken Calvert, Fran Craven, Jane Cullin, Jeff and Deb Forsyth, Jim Garvey, Mike and Gloria Hartz, Ellen Heigham, David Helphinstine, Steve and Renee Huck, Mike Maugans, Sally Miller, Phil and Diana Power, Kathy Revels, Barry Simes, and of course, Kenny and Joyce Parsels. In our park, as always, people step up when needed... **THANK YOU!**

But, as we all know, the job's not over yet. Once we welcome 2026, the decorations need to be taken down, packed and stored. Thus, once again, Joyce will need help to complete this task on:



**FRIDAY, JANUARY 2nd, 2026**  
**CLUBHOUSE GROUNDS**  
**9:00 a.m.**



Hope to see you there!

Scott and I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and we wish you all a Happy and Blessed New Year

**SUNDAY DRIVE**

**Saturday, January 24th —6:30 Light Snacks —  
7:00 — Performance**

Back by popular demand, this award winning group from Knoxville, Tennessee, will be performing some oldies, a bit of Southern gospel and a rendition of music from the '70 and '80s. Last time they were in the Park, they sang to a sold out crowd. Don't miss out this year. Get your tickets early.

Tickets cost \$15 each and can be purchased at the Box Office on Dec. 28th, Jan. 4th, 11th, 18th from 2-4 P.M. In the Activities Building.

**FOREST PARK CARPORT SALES****Saturday, January 31st**

Time to clean out those closets and get rid of unwanted or unused stuff. This is your day to fill your carport with lots of things you no longer want or need and want to sell. Then, any unsold items can be donated to the Craft Club for their Annual Trash to Treasure sale happening on Saturday, February 7th.



Co-Presidents	Ellen Heigham	eheimam@gmail.com	617-448-1748
	Barbara Batson-Passos	carouselfarms@yahoo.com	973-219-1044
1st Vice President	Paula Batson	shaht12@aol.com	201 874-4980
Co-Secretaries	Kathy Revels	kathy.revels@gmail.com	517-243-2755
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## NORTHEAST CLUB

*By Deb Johnson*

### PIZZA PARTY

**MONDAY, JANUARY 26 @ 5:00PM  
CLUBHOUSE**

 As it's getting colder, the snow is falling up North, but it's still warm and sunny here in Forest Park. As everyone gets settled back into their Florida home to escape from the cold winter months up North, we start to think about the many activities we have here in Forest Park for everyone to enjoy. The Northeast Club is one of them. We had a great time kicking off the season at our December meeting. There are many delicious meals with fun games being planned for January and throughout the rest of the season. If you are new to the Park we invite you to come and join us. You don't have to be from the Northeast to join. It's only \$5 per person to join and all Forest Park residents are welcome to join.

At our December meeting we recognized and thanked our outgoing officers, President, Lucinda King, Vice President, Carol Beconder, Secretary, Ramona Etoll and Treasurer, Jan Harman. They have done a great job over the past two years. We are extremely grateful to them for their dedication and hard work in making this club such a success. Our new officers starting in January are, President Paula Chapin, Vice President Deb Johnson, Secretary Jane Cullin, and Treasurer Moe Hesketh. Chris Micus will be the friendly face at the 50/50 table each month. If you signed up to plan and organize the dinner and games for January, February, or March please keep your commitment. Otherwise there will not be a meal, only games. We will be at the box office in the activity building every Sunday from 2-4 where you can come pay your dues to join and buy your tickets for the upcoming dinner. Dinner tickets are twelve dollars per person. We look forward to seeing all our old friends, as well as meeting and making new ones.

### LINE DANCE CLASSES

*By Ellen Heigham*

Come one and all...left feet and right to our easy line dance class starting Tuesday January 6 ,12:45 review of steps , 1:00-2:00 class

For more info call **Ellen 617-448-1748**



## CARING HEARTS & HELPING HANDS CLUB

*By Lenann Crisci & Rebecca Tybor*



CARING HEARTS & HELPING HANDS is a new volunteer organization being formed this year. We will have our first organizational meeting **Monday, at 7:00 pm on January 12th in the Clubhouse**. We are an arm of the Forest Park Social Club that believes there are Angels among us. Becki Tybor will be working with Lennan Crisci to make Forest Park a park where no one feels left out. Park residents help or assist our residents who are shut-in by just stopping by to visit, run an errand, or pick up a prescription. We are in **dire need of volunteers** to join the Caring Hearts & Helping Hands. We have residents who are no longer able to drive, who are lonely and just want to visit or play cards, or just need an Angel with a caring heart to give them a helping hand with their garbage or recycling. If you are willing to help out a neighbor, or if you need a helping hand with what is described, **please contact Lenann at 207-705-2256 or Rebecca at 630-441-6279**. We're excited about being involved with our Caring Hearts Club--Hoping to make Forest Park the park with a BIG Heart. Let's do it. Together.

## FOREST PARK TOOL CLUB

*By Monte Johnson*



The Forest Park Tool Club wants to **thank THE LIGHT, HOME CHURCH** for their generous donation and **everyone** who is coming out for a hotdog dinner and 50/50 raffles. Our residents' support is essential in the continued success of the Tool Club. We will be hosting a Hotdog Dinner prior to Karaoke every first and third Monday of the month in January through April. We are accepting new members and will be purchasing new tools for our members to borrow at no cost. Dues for the year are only \$10.00. We have every type of saw from hand, circular, chain, oscillating, jig, hole, miter, radial arm, table, etc.; drills, nailers, air compressors, a generator, mig welder, cement mixer; hand, yard, & garden tools; hand & electric hedge trimmers, weed wacker, leaf blower, and string trimmer, etc. This season we hope to resolve the dilemma with our current, termite infested tool storage shed with a newer, more spacious, improved tool storage facility.

If you have any questions, wish to join, donate cash, or no longer use tools, 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.

The Forest Park Tool Club

**"THE PETAL PUSHERS" GARDEN CLUB***By Teri Snyder*

Due to lack of interest on the part of residents, the Petal Pushers Garden Club will be disbanding.

Terri Snyder 716-939-0627.

**FOREST PARK CRAFT CLUB**

*By Arline Norman Bennett, Vice President Sambear2@yahoo.com, 860-227-0563*

Welcome to 2026. The Forest Park Craft club is inviting you to come join us in the new year. We have crafts that we will be creating, events in January, February, and March to plan. Every Wednesday at 9 am in the Clubhouse coffee/snacks with lots of laughs, meet new friends, we are looking forward to getting to know you.

The Craft Club ladies donated and installed a wall board bulletin board on the east wall of the Clubhouse. This is a nice addition to the Clubhouse, don't you think?

**PINE TREE KNOTS QUILT CLUB***By Cindy Trepianier*

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 meet 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.

**Library News***By Maureen Hesketh*

Thank you for sharing your books. It's truly a pleasure to see them, but sometimes I'm just overwhelmed with so many BAGS OF BOOKS being donated. There's only just so much room for them and that's the issue. Please be mindful of that..... Our small library is already stuffed to the max. Please donate to Goodwill or the Lee County

Library in the future. I do appreciate your help.

Your librarian,  
Maureen Hesketh  
508-962-5979

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH/NIGHT PATROL***By Gloria Restko*

**Hello!** Please consider **VOLUNTEERING**

for Neighborhood Watch/Night Patrol. It's only one night a month. We are in **dire need** of **volunteers!!** Currently we have **NINE NIGHTS** that we need a volunteer to step up and cover. Other volunteers are patrolling more than one night per week to cover the open nights. Keeping a watchful eye on our park residents and residences keeps everyone safer. Crime continues to rise. Ideally, we would have someone patrolling every night of the month. Please contact the office if you could **volunteer** just one night a month. Your neighbors are doing it, so how about you?

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR RESIDENTS WHO ARE VOLUNTEERING**

*Gloria Restko 813-841-9920*

**RED HAT SOCIETY***Contact Pam Salk 260-385-6407*

Hello Red Hat Ladies 😊 Time for our second luncheon of the season. We're going on January 13th to a beautiful restaurant with a fantastic view on Pine Island. It's called the Yucatán . The restaurant is just past Matlacha. Save some time to shop after lunch in this quaint little village. We have reservations at 11am so we should gather in front of the Clubhouse at 10:30 and leave immediately. Please consider bringing cash for faster check out, plus you will get a 3 % discount for doing so. I will need to know how many will be going; so I will be at the Box Office on the Sunday before Jan. 13th to take reservations. You will pay at the restaurant. Remember, cash is best due to our size. Looking forward to enjoying this lovely restaurant!

**BOCCE BALL***Contact Carlo or Lee Luberti – 239-851-9543*

Bocce ball is played on Monday and Thursday at the Bocce courts at 2:30 PM. Arrive at 2:15. New Members Welcome.



Open Bocce Ball on Saturday Mornings at 10:00am. There are no dues

QUIET HOURS IN THE PARK HAVE CHANGED. QUIET TIME BEGINS AT 10:00 PM AND ENDS AT 7:00 AM.



**Shuffle Board****Contact Bill Madill 519-634-5619**

Starting to have a good turnout on Mondays and Thursdays. Hopefully we'll have about 30 people playing regularly come January again. We play on Mondays and Thursdays at 10 in the morning. Players are all welcome. The week should be well underway by the time you read this!



Shuffleboard Fun Night – Everyone is invited to play shuffleboard every Wednesday night at 6:30 PM through December.

Ladies' Shuffleboard – Ladies play shuffleboard every Tuesday morning at 10 AM. Come enjoy, ladies.

Mixed Shuffleboard – Men and women play shuffleboard on Thursday evening at 6:30 pm.

There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for anyone that wants to play. This is a fun league where no one gets too serious and everyone is welcome to play. Whoever shows up can play. It is good practice and I guess we get some exercise by stretching our arms out! The organized part of shuffleboard runs from January through March! Anyway enjoy yourselves while you can, use the amenities the park has supplied! and for heaven's sake never act your age! Until next time, **Bill Madill**.

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES****by Monte Johnson**

**All articles, news or photographs should be submitted to this email [fpsocialnews@gmail.com](mailto:fpsocialnews@gmail.com) and are 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 at [forestparkonline.com](http://forestparkonline.com). Your Forest Park Newsletter is totally run by volunteers who gather the information and photos, write the articles, request articles from others, proofread, arrange the articles, proofread, work with the publisher, proofread, distribute the newsletter and put it online. The newsletter is free because the advertising pays the expenses. Printed Newsletters usually arrive by the end of the previous 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. The editor has no control over the filler puzzles or games!**

**KARAOKE**

Karaoke with Chris Tybor is held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, from **7-9 pm** **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 on **Tuesday nights** 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 non-alcoholic drinks.

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Karen Angell	1		
Diane Layne	1	Paula Morris	15
John Little	1	Mike Hartz	16
Marlo Dell'Antonio	2	Renee Treece	16
Cheryl Geik	3	Jeff Dieck	17
Deborah Betz	3	Jerry Hamel	20
Melinda West	4	Kimberly Allen	22
Paula Eisele	5	Wendy Henderson	23
Beth Rakestraw	5	Robyn Johnson	24
Marilyn Kuser	5	Dick Teal	25
Richard Stricklen	6	David Robison	25
Joyce Russell	6	Edie Hosey	26
Toni Foote	7	Anton Kothe	27
Jeff Provence	7	Mary Linscott	27
Harold Flood	8	Gerald Gilbert	28
David Wood	12	Renee Huck	28
James Pierce	14	Ken Parsels	30

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Donald & Deanna Matheny	Jan 13, 1984
Luisa & James Hamilton	Jan 17 2003
Rick & Jolanda Rothmeier	Jan 22, 1988
Randy & JoAnn Hull	Jan 26, 1974

## WELCOME TO FOREST PARK

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## IN MEMORIAM

*Beth Emanuel*

**Elizabeth Alberta Murphy**

Elizabeth Alberta Murphy, 82 of Ft Myers, FL died in Fort Myers, FL on December 8, 2025.

She was born on February 16, 1943 in Arcadia, FL to Bailey and Alberta Murphy. She graduated from Fort Myers High School and went on to work for Ear, Nose, and Throat Associates for over 30 years.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Alberta Murphy; father, Bailey Murphy; and husband, Salvatore Emanuel. Survivors include her brother, Gene Murphy and wife Marie Murphy; brother, David Murphy and wife Lisa Murphy; her son, Bernie and his wife Linda Murphy; son, Steve Murphy; daughter, Cindi Murphy; grand children, Darren Murphy, Scott Derosier, Jesse Derosier, Desirae O'Dell, Meghan Murphy, and Emily McFalls; and six Great Grandchildren.

She was more than just a mother; she was the life of the party, the spark that ignited joy in every gathering. Beth's presence was like a burst of fireworks on a dark night, and her sharp wit and tongue kept everyone on their toes. With her infectious smile and laughter, she turned ordinary moments into extraordinary ones..."

**Carol A. Bradsher**

Carol A. Bradsher, 87 of Gaylord, passed away Monday, December 1, 2025, at The Brook.

Carol was a snowbird in Forest Park for many years and was always ready with a smile and a cheerful word. Carol loved to play cards.

Wednesday nights she would be at the Forest Park Clubhouse playing Euchre and visiting. She will be missed by everyone in the park who knew her.

The family will remember her privately.

*In Loving Memory*

**TAI CHI CLASS**

*by Lenann Crisci*



Tai Chi Chuan, a Chinese art that dates to 1644, though historians believe the practice could be as much as 2000 years old. An art passed down for centuries must have value.

The Chinese believe it produces, Mental, Physical, and Spiritual Wellness. What greater wealth! The cost of wellness is as little as 10 minutes a day! Classes are every Wednesday at 2:30 pm in the Clubhouse.

**CONTACT: LENANN CRISCI**

**207-705-2256**

**EXERCISE CLASS**

*By Jane Cullin and Carole Beconder*



Jane's Cardio, Weight and Core

Exercise class is every Monday, 8:15 am to 9:15 am (Note the 15 minute later start time.) In the clubhouse. Bring a mat or towel.

Carole's Walking, a little Yoga and light weights. Exercise class is every Tues. and Sat. from 9-10 AM. In the clubhouse.

**KOFFEE KLATCH**

The **Joint Koffee Klatch** is on **Friday, January 2nd at 9:00 am In the Clubhouse.** Coffee and Donuts are provided. Denise Horton, independent agent, of Horton Marshall Financial Services, LLC will be our guest speaker. Denise spoke in the park several years ago about Life, Health, Medicare, and other personal insurance. Being an independent agent, Denise will give an honest opinion on the best option for insurance. As always, bring your own coffee cup or mug. (1st Friday each month)

The **Men's Koffee Klatch** is on Friday, January 9th at 8:00 am to 9:00 am. in the Clubhouse. Coffee and Donuts are provided. As always, bring your own coffee cup or mug. (2nd Friday each month)

The **Women's Koffee Klatch** will be January 16th at 9:00 am-10:00 am in the Clubhouse. We will have a speaker about bugs other than termites. Coffee and Donuts are provided. As always, bring your own coffee cup or mug. (3rd Friday each month)



## Notes of Cheer

By Robyn Johnson



Did you know that Social Club has a cheer person that sends out cards to residents that have been ill, had surgery, or have lost a loved one. Social Club provides the stamps and relies on residents to donate blank, get well and sympathy cards.

Heather Flavin has been the cheer person since March of 2023 and has sent out over 300 cards. Heather has decided to step down and found a new replacement to do this thoughtful volunteer job. Karen Nash has graciously taken over the position. If you know of anyone in need of some cheer, please reach out to Karen at 859-462-2280 or you may email her at knash@blueone.net.

A big THANK YOU to Heather for bringing cheer to residents since 2023 and to Karen for keeping up this tradition.



Also, if you have any of the cards listed above and would like to donate them, please bring them to Karen Nash, or you may drop them off at the office.

Thank you

**Karen Nash 859-462-2280 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 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 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 this identifier 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 10 PM to 7 AM. 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 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!!!

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

# January

#### GAMES ANYONE ?



Have you checked out the Forest Park Online Calendar for the latest activities available for all Forest Park residents. There is something for everyone. Come on out and try something new.

- Pickle Ball
- Bocce Ball
- Shuffleboard
- Hand & Foot
- Dominoes

Forest Park does not have a **Dog Walk, Run, or Park.** **Florida law** states that your dog must be on a leash no longer than six feet 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. No one wants to step in dog or cat feces!



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**Weekly Calendar Events***All events are if enough residents are here to participate***Every Monday**

8:00 am Competitive Co-ed Pickleball  
 8:15 am Cardio, Weights, & Core with Jane - Clubhouse  
 9:00 am Dominos – Clubhouse  
 9:15 am Relaxed Co-Ed Pickleball  
 10:00 am Co-Ed Shuffleboard  
 10:30 am Pool Exercise  
 2:30 pm Bocce Ball

**Every Tuesday**

8:00 am Competitive Co-ed Pickleball  
 9:00 am Walking and Weights with Carol B - Clubhouse  
 9:15 am Relaxed Co-Ed Pickleball  
 10:00 am Ladies Shuffle Board  
 10:30 am Pool Exercise  
 1:00 pm Line Dance Class, beginners at 12:30 pm - Clubhouse  
 6:00 pm Texas Holdem Tournament- Activities Building  
 6:45 pm Bingo - Clubhouse

**Every Wednesday**

8:00 am Competitive Co-ed Pickleball  
 9:00 am Craft Club - Clubhouse  
 9:15 am Relaxed Co-Ed Pickleball  
 10:30 am Pool Exercise  
 2:30 pm Tai Chi Class - Clubhouse  
 6:30 pm Euchre - Activities Building

**Every Thursday**

8:00 am Competitive Co-ed Pickleball  
 9:15 am Relaxed Co-Ed Pickleball  
 9:00 am Pine Tree Knots Quilt Club - Clubhouse  
 10:00 am League Shuffle Board  
 10:00 am Ladies Bible Study  
 10:30 am Pool Exercise  
 2:30 pm Bocce Ball  
 6:00 pm Hand and Foot, Domino's - Clubhouse  
 6:30 pm Mixed Shuffleboard

**Every Friday**

8:00 am Competitive Co-ed Pickleball  
 9:15 am Relaxed Co-Ed Pickleball  
 10:30 am Pool Exercise

**Every Saturday**

8:00 am Competitive Co-ed Pickleball  
 9:00 am Walking and Weights with Carol B. - Clubhouse  
 10:00 am Open Bocce Ball  
 2:00 pm Tai Chi beginners class - Clubhouse

**Every Sunday**

8:00 am Competitive Co-ed Pickleball  
 2:00 - 4:00 pm Forest Park Box Office  
 6:00 pm Home Church  
 6:00 pm Hand and Foot - Clubhouse

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