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Forest Park Newsletter

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Heather Flavin & Monte Johnson

VOLUNTEERS ARE ESSENTIAL TO FOREST PARK



Fran, Joyce, & Kenny



Jim & Jay



Mike & Don



Joe, Ken, Bob, Don, Warren, Kevin, Hoyt, & Jay



Joyce, Jeff, Gianna, Paula, & Jane. Lucinda not shown.

Joyce Parsels, Gianna Wachholz, Jane Cullin, Jeff Forsyth, Paula Batson, and Lucinda King (not pictured) are looking forward to welcoming new owners to this great park.



The New Year was kicked off with a bang in Forest Park with the super fantastic New Years Eve Masquerade Ball sponsored by the Social Club and organized by the Batson sisters (Barbara & Paula) again this year. That was followed by volunteers organized by Ken and Joyce Parsels to clean up the McDaniel property and take down the Christmas decorations for another season. Newcomer Jim Garvey volunteered to paint the white, stop lines on Forest Park Drive. The old wooden plank and posts along Powell Creek behind the parking area for

continued on page 3

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Forest Park

the Activities Building had rotted out and needed to be removed. Soon to be replaced by new treated 4x4 posts with white PVC covers, solar lighted caps, with a stainless steel cable. Later the flag pole was reinstalled at the entrance to the Park. The plastic chains around the Clubhouse were replaced by Bob Bagge and Mike Fanning. Greg Freeze and Randy Shirley cleaned up behind the Maintenance Shed. All this has happened in the first ten days of the new year. Just prior to Christmas the fence on the south side of the R/V Park had a new green mesh privacy screen installed at 575 Peace Lake Court.

The people mentioned earlier and following deserve to be recognized for their contributions to our park. Ellen Heigham, Benny and Donna Sisto, Linda Schaeffer, Arline Bennett, Paula Chapin, Lucinda King, Landon Evans, Marcos Passos, John Hill, Chris Tybor, and Jim Pierce for New Years Eve. Don Wood, Mike Maugans, Jay Finch, Jim Garvey, Hoyt England, Duke Johnson, Bob Charles, Peter Lodi and Heather Flavin for McDaniel property. Fran Craven, Renee and Steve Huck, Mike Hartz, Ellen Heigham, Dave Helphinstine, Phil and Diana Powers, Mike Fanning, Anne Lacey, Harry DeMeester, Jeff Forsythe, Mike Hartz, Jeff Dieck, for putting up or taking down Christmas decorations. Don Wood, Warren Starks, Jay Finch, Bob Charles, Kevin Mann, Joe Craven, Hoyt England and Ken Parsels for replacing the guard rail along Powell Creek. Rick Foote, Ron Moon, and Warren Starks for the flag pole. Ninety year old Ron Moon mixed all 900 lbs of cement by hand for the flag pole pad. Bob Charles, Ken Parsels, Mike Hartz, Rick Lawton, and Dave Helphinstine installed the privacy screen. We sincerely apologize if we have missed someone.

Christmas Best Decorated House Contest

By Paula Batson

A huge congratulations to our Winners of the House Decoration Contest! 1st Place 5361 Forest Park Drive, Bob and Ann Charles. 2nd Place, 5001 Forest Park Drive, Jesse and Sonya Marchbanks. 3rd Place 816 Hollyberry Ct., Paul and Carolyn Hodson. Thank you to everyone who participated, thank you to the Nash Family for judging it and we look forward to next year, where we will add on the best overall street, to the prizes!

#communitypride
#socialclub



Bob and Ann Charles



Jesse and Sonya Marchbanks



Paul and Carolyn Hodson

PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

By Forest Park Compliance Committee

February Winners

**Lisa Cogburn
& Susan Hough**

306 Shrub Lane South



Jay Finch & Laura Freeze
5141 Forest Park Drive



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.



Election of FPPOA Board of Directors - January 8th, 2026

Total Ballots Cast: 117

Ballots: 679	Absentee Ballots 0	Spoiled Ballots 0	Write Ins 13
President (2026-28)	Votes	Write Ins	Votes
Barbara Batson-Passos	113	Ken Parsels	1
Ken Holt	1		
John Hill	1		
2nd Vice President (2026-28)	Votes	Write Ins	Votes
Brian Hafer	113	Bob Carson	1
		John Hill	1
		David Brugh	1
		Donald Trump	1
Treasurer (2026-28) (2 Yr Term)	Votes	Write Ins	
Cindy Trepanier	115		
Dir. #2 (2026-28) (bal. of 3 Yr Term)	Votes	Write Ins	Votes
Ken Parsels	111	John Hill	1
Dir. #4 (2026-29) (3 Yr Term)	Votes	Write Ins	Votes
Mike Hall	114	Monte Johnson	1
		John Hill	1
Dir. #5 (2026-29) (3 Yr Term)	Votes	Write Ins	Votes
Barry Simes	113	John Hill	1

Election Inspectors & Clerks

Chair: Kathy Martin

Member: Dorothy Frender

Member: Maureen Hesketh

Member: Ann Charles



FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Barbara Batson Passos

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me as the new Forest Park HOA president. I'm honored to serve this community and the people who make it such a special place to live.

As we move forward, my goal is simple: to safeguard our community for now and the future - while making things easier to understand and follow for everyone. That means protecting our property values, maintaining safety, and ensuring that our neighborhood remains a peaceful, enjoyable place for all residents.

Equally important, I want to simplify and clarify

expectations of what the rules are, why they exist and how they will be applied - fairly and consistently. Clear communication helps prevent misunderstandings and allows us to focus on what really matters, which is enjoying our homes and Forest Park.

This 55+ community was built on respect, cooperation, and shared responsibility. It is my expectation that we all continue these to make Forest Park a desirable, comfortable, safe place to live. I look forward to working together, listening to your concerns, and making sure every resident feels informed, heard, and valued.

Thank you again for your confidence. I'm excited about what WE can accomplish together.

Barbara Batson Passos

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COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Hi All... this will be my last written monthly report on Compliance. Bob Charles is taking over as head of the Committee. The members are as follows Warren Starks, Lucinda King, Kevin Mann, and Bill Russell.

This past year has seen a HUGE rebound in the appearance of the Park and it hasn't gone unnoticed. Realtors, residents and guests have remarked how nice the Park is looking. BUT we still have some work to do. Make sure you have a Quick Reference Rule Sheet (copies located in the Office) which outlines some of our basic requirements in the Park. This is a great one page sheet for residents, tenants and guests. Please ensure all guests and/or pets are registered in the Office (license/rabies) and if a long term visitor please get a separate registration form from Office staff.

The Pride of Ownership Program recognizes those that keep up on their homes and we can see by the smiling faces - that it's SO appreciated by those that get the monthly sign! It also encourages neighbors to work on improving their own residences. So, Congrats to all those winners! I appreciate everyone's (mostly) cooperation this past year in any issues that arose. We have a good protocol now which will be even better in 2026! As always - comment, suggestion, and complaint forms are available in the office.

Barbara Batson Passos

Compliance Committee

Bob Charles, Lucinda King, Warren Starks, Bill Russell, and Kevin Mann

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



FEBRUARY 19, 2026 Board Meeting 9 AM
FEBRUARY 26, 2026 Membership Meeting 7 PM

BRINGING OUR PARK TOGETHER

By Heather Flavin

This article features someone that truly represents the Spirit of Forest Park, Paula Batson. If you haven't met her yet, I am sure you will. She can be seen riding her bike throughout the park, walking her wonderful, retired service dog, Willow, or riding on a cart with her son Landon, and sister Barbara, (another great source of positive inspiration for our park).



Paula stops and chats with everyone she sees, finding out about them and trying to rally community pride. To get people involved, she started by passing out flyers to let everyone know the schedule of our upcoming social events. She coordinated the Sip and Paint Party at our clubhouse, Rock painting, summer resident picnic and cornhole competition, Halloween parade, (keep reading) Putting up the Christmas Tree at the dog park gazebo, and lighting up palm trees nearby. Off season, she and another resident started picking up fallen palms throughout the park two times a week and getting many full loads to the horticulture bin. Assisting folks with getting their Christmas lights up, VicePresident of the Social Club, and she also contributes to our monthly newsletter. Wow!!

Paula stated that what is most important to her is to make people smile. Generating ideas to keep residents involved and getting suggestions that improve everyone's quality of life here in the park. This is her goal and she has excelled.



Her grandfather was one of the first residents in the park, living on Shrub South. Her parents, Paul and Linda are here along with sister Barbara Batson Passos and brother-in-law, Marcos Passos, former husband Reese Evans, and her son, Landon Evans. "We love this park and want to work to maintain a well-run and safe family community, where people want to live." I recall Paula telling me one time that her dad told her, "To wave to everyone."

Paula offers Willow, her retired service dog as a "cheer up companion" to those that could benefit from a visit with this wonderful, loving dog. 2026 was brought in with a special event, Paula's vision of the New Year's Eve Masquerade party and it was a huge success. Her passion for this park is omnipresent. We are so fortunate to have Paula.

EDITOR THOUGHTS

By Monte Johnson



The Leadership That Keeps a Community Alive

Have you ever thought about the amount of work that goes into operating a smooth-running household or club, a successful company or business, or a thriving homeowners association? There is one thing they all have in common: dedicated leadership.

Parents work hard to keep their families going. Business owners and managers carry the responsibility of keeping their companies successful and financially stable.

A homeowners association is different from all three. An HOA is a legal organization responsible for maintaining property values, enforcing rules, and managing shared spaces. HOAs rely on board members to keep the community looking good and running smoothly by balancing community spirit with legal and financial obligations.

Clubs exist for the enjoyment, fellowship, and shared interests of their members. Its leadership isn't about profit — it's about creating experiences, building community, and keeping members engaged. A club depends on volunteers to step forward to plan, organize, and keep things moving. People join because they want to, not because they have to.

Right Here in Forest Park

Our Social Club is no different. Everyone is a member of the Social Club, yet we're lucky if we get 15 people to attend a meeting. And that's a challenge, because the Social Club is the heart of our community life.

Think about everything the Social Club brings to Forest Park:

- Dances and live entertainment
- Comedians and special events
- Christmas and New Year's parties
- Poker Runs
- Soup Cook-Off contests
- Parades and Karaoke
- A free Veterans Day dinner for every veteran, spouse or surviving spouse, following our program honoring their service
- A free Thanksgiving dinner for every owner in the Park
- And countless moments of fun, laughter, and friendship

These events don't just "happen." They take planning, coordination, and people willing to step forward. Right now, we need that more than ever. We need a new President, new committee members, and volunteers who can give a little time so the whole community can enjoy a lot. The truth is simple: a Social Club can only be as strong as the people who support it. And Forest Park deserves a strong one.

If each of us gave just a small amount of time — an hour here, an idea there, a helping hand when we can — we could keep every one of these traditions alive and even build new ones.

Leadership isn't about doing everything. It's about doing something.

A Call to You

As we look ahead, the future of our Social Club depends on all of us. Not a handful. Not the same familiar faces every year. We need everyone who calls Forest Park home.

If you've ever enjoyed a dance, laughed at a comedian, joined a Poker Run, tasted a soup at the Cook-Off, or simply appreciated the energy these events bring to our Park, then you've already benefited from the work of the Social Club. Now we're asking you to help keep that spirit alive.

We invite you to come to our next meeting, **Friday, January 30th at 1:00 pm in the Activities building.** Meet your neighbors, and see how you can be part of the fun, the planning, and the future of Forest Park.

Together, we can keep this community thriving.

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SUPER SOUP STANDOFF 2026

Hello neighbors, please join us for these upcoming community events:



Super Soup Standoff

Hosted by: Sally Miller and Pam Salk

Date: Sunday, February 1st

Time: Doors open at 2:00 PM

Admission: \$6.00 at the door

Ten of your fellow residents will be competing for the title of Super Soup Chef. Come out to taste the entries and vote for your favorites! Afterward, the chefs will serve a full bowl of your choice. Crackers and cornbread provided. Please contact Sally Miller at 517-282-8200 with any questions.

VALENTINE'S DANCE IS FEBRUARY 14th—7-10 PM



Grab your Valentine and join your friends for a fantastic party in the Clubhouse. Forest Park's favorite singer, Jerry Burton, will be entertaining. Sweet treats will be served but you are welcome to BYOB and goodies to share. Tickets cost \$10 per person and can be purchased at the Ticket Booth on Sundays.

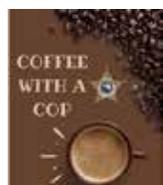
2026 Forest Park Poker Run & Potluck

Hosted by: Sally Miller and the Social Committee

Date: Saturday, March 21st *SAVE THE DATE*

Time: Starts promptly at 2:30 PM at the clubhouse

Cost: \$5.00 per person



SPECIAL JOINT KOFFEE

EVERYONE plan to attend the Joint Koffee Klatch on Thursday evening, February 5th at 7:00 pm in the Clubhouse.

Deputy Sherman, Lee County Sheriff's

Dept. will be speaking on "SAFETY IN FOREST PARK", answering questions and providing tips. Coffee and Sweet Treats are provided. As always, bring your own coffee cup or mug.

Get ready for an afternoon of fun and laughter! You'll drive around the community in groups of two to four—on a golf cart or bicycle—solving clues to build your best poker hand. No poker experience is necessary. Please bring your Forest Park Directory and a pen. The three best poker hands will win the pot!



Potluck & Food Drive

We invite everyone in the park to join us at the clubhouse at 4:00 PM for the potluck dinner and food drive, whether you participated in the Poker Run or not.

- Bring: A dish to share (appetizer, dessert, salad, or main dish) and your own drink.
- Donate: Please bring a non-perishable food item for the food drive.
- Provided: Plates, napkins, and plasticware.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please contact Sally Miller at 517-282-8200 via phone or text.

See you there!

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FOREST PARK CRAFT CLUB

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



February Craft Club News

Be sure you come and join the Craft Club for the 2026 Season. Meetings are every Wednesday from 9 - 11 am in the Clubhouse coffee/snacks with lots of laughs, meet new friends, we are looking forward to getting to know you. Dues are only \$10.00. Everyone is welcome.

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out 4:30 pm

TICKETS \$12.00 per person. Get your tickets at the Box Office on Sunday's from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Happy Valentine's Day!!



NORTHEAST CLUB

By Deb Johnson

BBQ DINNER PARTY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23 @ 5:00PM CLUBHOUSE

February's Northeast Club dinner will be held on Monday, February 23rd and looks to be another fun filled evening. Ellen Heigham and Linda Schaeffer have been working hard planning and organizing this month's meeting. On the menu will be a delicious barbecue meal. The games are sure to be loads of fun as always. Ticket cost for the dinner is \$12 per person. We will be in the Activity building every Sunday from now till the 15th selling tickets. If you have not joined yet, but would like to, you still can. It only cost \$5 per person to join. As always you don't have to be from the Northeast to join. Everyone in the park is welcome to become a member. So mark your calendar for the 23rd and come join in on the fun. We look forward to seeing you then.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS OF CHEER

By Nancy Cooper



I wish to thank Ellen Heigham, Bill Grant, Ray Moreau and my assistant, Chris Major for all their help packaging and delivering the baskets of cheer. A very special thank you to Becky Conrad for once again donating money to this wonderful event.

Sadly the tradition has come to an end. This is the last year I will be organizing the event. For nearly 20 years it has been a joy to bring a bit of cheer to so many. What started out as a way to remember Park residents in need of a bit of cheer, has delivered over 340 baskets of fruit, cookies, candy and food. It is a holiday memory I will always cherish.

I have asked the Social Club to transfer any left over funds to a new account that will be used to purchase Christmas decorations for the Park. It is something we all enjoy and look forward to each December. Hopefully other Park clubs will add to this fund as it is an ongoing project.

FOREST PARKS HOME CHURCH "THE LIGHT"

By Roberta Rizas



Hello, Forest Park friends. Here we come February 2026. I think we can all feel free to say, "a hhhhh, the Holidays are over, wonderful as they are. They become very tiring, decorating inside and out, all the cooking and baking, volunteering to help in our Park, helping others, inviting friends over etc. etc. We are still happy to do it all, but now we need a rest. After the New year celebration the month of January gives us that chance to rest up & then find time to concentrate on our garage sale at the end of the month.

February has many celebrations too. Starting with national freedom day, then groundhog day, Lincoln's birthday, Valentine's Day, national Flag Day, presidents Day, and President Washington's birthday. Have fun, enjoy them all, but don't overdo it. You all need some rest. Now you need to join in on all the activities that FOREST PARK offers you. Many to choose from and fun playing them all. Great way to make new friends enjoying different clubs. "The Light", FOREST PARK's Church also invites you all to join us at 457 Jacaramba Court at 6 PM every Sunday night. All are welcome. Hope to see you there and have a great time in the month of February.

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS!!

By Nancy Cooper



What a wonderful holiday season we enjoyed in Forest Park thanks to the efforts and generosity of our volunteers. The decorations were lovely, the parties were great fun, the food, drinks, music, singing, dancing, golf cart parade, and the New Year's party all made for a great time.

One event in particular that brought a lot of joy to some was the Christmas Give Away. Several volunteers solicited donations and a lot of individuals and businesses

gave gifts or gift certificates. I am enclosing a list of some who gave hoping that you will remember to add your thanks if and when you see them. Kelli Spencer, Realtor, Rosemary Ryan, Realtor, Judy Lucarelli, Realtor, Myra Santiago, Realtor, Sarah Klotzbach, Realtor, Ketron Cooling, Einstein Bagel, Athenian Restaurant, Innovations Style Salon, FL Anchor and Barrier, Smoke n Pit, Steve's Place, Habaneros Restaurant, Landis Aluminum, Stamatis Restaurant, OK UK Restaurant, Fowler Street Grill, North Ft. Myers Florist, Hair Connection (Suki) and Jerseys Sports Bar. Thank you, too, for all of you in the Park who donated.

Social Club Officers

Co-Presidents	Ellen Heigham	eheigham@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

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COMFORT BEARS

By Heather Flavin



Last spring I met with Gloria Hartz and learned about Comfort Bears. It is a project that was started by the Craft Club and is very dear to Gloria's heart. She and other sewers in the park work together to assemble and

create these wonderful bears. They are given to comfort those in their time of need.

This project was started over 10 years ago by the Craft Club president at that time. A representative came and spoke to the park about these bears for our injured military, and the idea of making camouflage comfort bears for our military took hold. These bears were made for injured servicemen and women in the hospital. In the field they have a buddy, now healing they are given a bear. The distribution of camouflage bears to our military in the hospital was unfortunately suspended because of Covid 19. Gloria hopes the camouflage bears will resume being available for delivery.

The bears are also made of soft colors and small prints to be donated to the Sheriff's Dept., local Fire Dept., a Safe house and the Children's hospital. Initially these bears were delivered to these departments at Christmas time, now it is at the end of winter season.



Bears are given to children in all situations. Traumatic events occur and the local sheriff and fire departments are grateful to have these bears ready to distribute. Bears are also provided to a safe house, a program that is ready to accommodate abused women and their children.

The volunteers spend time cutting out patterns, sewing, stuffing and adding finishing touches to make these huggable bears ready for distribution. This group of sewers initially made 75 bears; over time it has grown to over 200.

How can you help the Comfort Bear team???

Do you have a knack for sewing and would like to volunteer some time for this worthy project?? Contact Gloria Hartz, 219-707-9174, sewing machines are available. DONATIONS of fleece blankets in good condition – solid or small prints are suggested and greatly appreciated. THANK YOU to Gloria and all the other sewers, pattern cutters and stuffers that work to make these special bears.

WOOF, WAG, & WIGGLE

By Paula Batson



Meet Charlie, our resident 3 year old Cockapoo who is loved by his mom Kim Brimer of Sand Lake Court. Charlie is absolutely one of the sweetest boys I have met so far. After having toy poodles most of her life, Kim was looking for a new companion once she settled in

Forest Park from Illinois. A trip to a local pet store in Fort Myers and sweet Charlie became the perfect new family member. In true Doodle fashion Charlie has angel eyelashes and a heart of gold. He loves people and petting him brings him so much comfort (and me as I did his interview). Beggin Strips are his favorite treat and he was proud to show me his Kermit the Frog stuffed toy. His trick bag is high fives and sits down which he wiggles into and out of alot lol. An avid rabbit watcher, this energetic guy also loves to take a plunge in the pond (when he escapes) and lives to get a run in on the golf cart. He absolutely stole my heart and he will yours too! So if you see him around, feel free to show him some love, he will be so happy and so will you, truly a special little guy .



KITTY CORNER

By Paula Batson



Left:
Miss Kitty
Loved by Connie Mooney,
Pine Tree Ct.
Jan Burlew and Bill Loveall
Timber Lane N.

Luna

Both these kitty's were feral cats that were roaming the streets in the park. They were fixed, given their shots, and adopted by Connie, Jan, and Bill.





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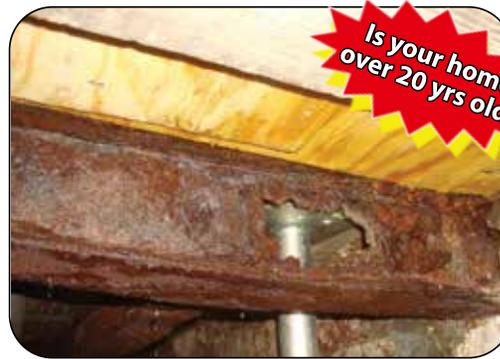
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LINE DANCE CLASSES

By Ellen Heigham



Come one and all...left feet and right to our easy line dance class every Tuesday at 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 be meeting the **second and fourth Monday, every month at 7:00 pm 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.

PINE TREE KNOTS QUILT CLUB

By Cindy Trepanier



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.

FOREST PARK TOOL CLUB

By Monte Johnson



The Forest Park Tool Club meets the second Tuesday of every month at 10:00 am in the Billiards room of the Activities Building. We wish to **thank 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 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, 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 used 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

Library News

By Maureen Hesketh



The Forest Park library is fully stocked and ready for you to choose your favorite author. Great mysteries and lots of adventure novels that will help you relax through the cool weather. Come and browse!!

Your librarian,
Maureen Hesketh
508-962-5979

RED HAT SOCIETY

Contact Pam Salk 260-385-6407



On Tuesday, February 10th we will meet at the clubhouse at 11am. Luncheon will be at Bone Fish Grill on Pine Island Road. Lunch will be served at 11:30. I will be at the clubhouse on Sunday February 8th for reservations.

Pam Salk



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

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

Shuffle Board

Contact *Bill Madill* 519-634-5619

Shuffle board well underway with 27 players signed up. We are pretty well at our limit for players great to see the participation. Also glad that Ellsworth Plumbing and Heating has again sponsored our league. Nothing much to report as yet, but will be doing a hot dog shuffle in a couple of weeks.



Until next time, **Captain Bill Madill.**

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.

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



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

by *Monte Johnson*

All articles, news or photographs should be submitted to this email 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. 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.



Birthdates for February



Lee Fisher 2
 Linda Steffen 3
 Karen Landis 4
 Jeffrey Collar 5
 Sharon Pike 5
 Mike Maugans 8
 Art Baker 9
 Linda Boyan 11
 Dean Hillman 11
 Sue Caudill 12
 Brian Corrigan 12
 Andre Fiset 12
 Lee Hayek 13
 Jerry Day 14
 Linda Goosic 14
 Cynthia Loper 15
 Dolores Paskowski 15
 John Prasko 15
 Wayne Dau 16
 Charles Galbraith 16
 John Mickelsen 16
 William Russell 16

Rebecca White 18
 Cindy Sauer 19
 Alice Diers 20
 Mark Goosic 20
 Mike Goosic 20
 Nina Lampert 20
 Lynne Baker 21
 Marilyn Jackson 22
 Brian Revels 22
 Jean Christenson 23
 Keith Burgett 23
 Wayne Meyer 25
 Peter Coranato 25
 Robert Koenders 25
 Sonya Marchbanks 26
 Roberta Rizas 26
 Myra Rodriguez 26
 John Schlectic 26
 Ron Voreh 27
 Bob Charles 28

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Are you celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary this year? If so, we would like to honor you and your spouse by recognizing you in the Newsletter and giving you a gift. Please give me a call ...Nancy Cooper...207-632-7544 or email...flobme@gmail.com. Or contact Ellen Heigham at 617-448-1748 or email...eheigham@gmail.com

Ken & Joyce Parsels February 3, 1973
 Bob & Kathy Carson February 7, 1970
 Mike & Betsy Maugans February 7, 1970
 Ed & Nancy Criswell –February 13, 1974
 Duke & Robyn Johnson February 28, 1985

WELCOME TO FOREST PARK

Darryl Russell
 737 Knotty Pine Circle
 239-560-9222
 Home State: ILL



TAI CHI CLASS
 by *Lenann Crisci*



Hope everyone had a joyful Holiday. Now that my visitors have departed, I am left to give my attention to my park activities, one of which is Tai Chi Chuan. I have been a student of Tai Chi since 1997. I started my lessons to improve my concentration. In other words, pay better attention to the moment. I know now it gave me a lot more. Wow, almost 30 years ago! I took over a Sensei position in 2010, so I have been teaching for 16 years. Maybe it even saved my life when I was out in the woods with a broken Femur for 32 hrs. I love to tell that story. Just ask me. I am grateful for all Tai Chi. has given me and I love passing the Art on to my students. I would like to personally invite you to come join me on Wednesday at 2:30pm. I look forward to seeing you.

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 **Men's** Koffee Klatch is on Friday, February 13th 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 February 20th at 9:00 am to 10:00 am in the Clubhouse. 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 sheriff's 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!**

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



Dog Walk

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. If your dog is aggressive towards other dogs or people, you should have your dog muzzled while outside on a leash. 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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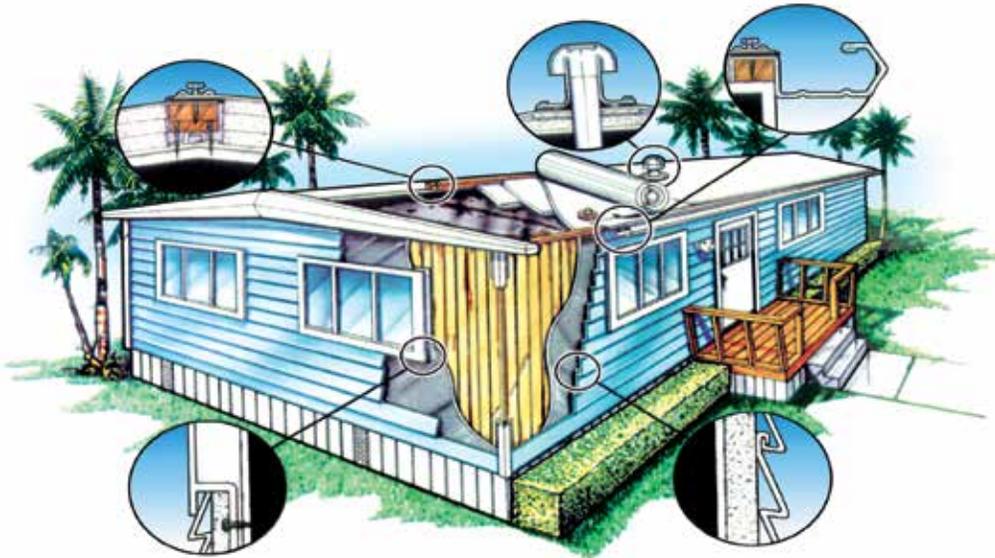




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