

FOREST PARK NEWS

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Illumination Night 2004

As spring returns to Forest Park, neighbors will be working hard to assemble the pre-summer social institution know as "Illumination Night". Inspired by a similar festival held on Martha's Vineyard, this event kicks off the summer season with food, fun, and music.

This year, the 15th Annual Illumination Night will return to Florentine Gardens on **Saturday, June 19**. As in the past, activities will involve neighbors from three different areas. Folks from Pineywoods, Cherryvale, Spruceland, Beechwood, Longhill & Washington Rd. will be involved in the planing. Neighbors from Garfield, Fairfield, and Greenleaf Streets will judge the porch decorations and neighbors from Marengo Park and Bellevue will help sell refreshments.

This is a great opportunity to gather and celebrate the special attributes of our neighborhood. Bring your neighbors, family and friends. Invite friends from other neighborhoods or surrounding towns. EVERYONE is welcome to enjoy the day's activities which will include making luminaria, a children's parade, strawberry shortcake, music, awards, and prizes.

Volunteers are needed on the night of the event. If you'd like to help, please contact Deb Cloutier at 733-2433. *Hope to see you there!*

Illumination Night

June 19

Florentine Gardens

Activities for the entire family and a terrific celebration of the neighborhood.

Illumination Night Events Schedule

10:00 A.M. -

We'll gather to make luminaria. Bring your hole-punchers and creativity.

4:00 P.M. -

The Children's Parade begins. Wear a costume, decorate your wagons, bikes and trikes for prizes and lots of fun.

7:00 P.M. -

Come meet your neighbors! Strawberry shortcake, iced lemonade, raffle tickets and other items go on sale.

8:00 P.M. -

Let the music Play! The BEST PORCH judging will begin.

Enjoy the evening!



President's Message

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Check us out on the web at:
www.forestparkca.com

Our email address is
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Email board members using the first name and first initial of last name@forestparkca.com

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Dear Neighbors:



The Forest Park Civic Association is over 40 years old. Over these many years we have cheered and cried over zoning victories and defeats in our neighborhood. Fortunately, we've had more cheers than tears and our neighborhood is stronger because of our efforts.

Over these 40 years, the FPCA has earned a reputation of making neighborhood preservation a top priority. Because of this consistent commitment, today our input is sought by City Council via the Planning Board on proposals for zone changes and special permits that will impact our neighborhood.

Petitioners are asked to present their proposals to the FPCA Board before they come before the Council. We also work hand in hand with The "X" Main St. Corporation and Concerned Citizens for Springfield, Inc. on many housing, business and other neighborhood issues.

The FPCA came into existence when a zone change was sought for a key property on Sumner Avenue. Over the years several of our zoning victories have concerned Sumner Avenue properties.

Today Sumner Avenue continues to be attractive as a place to set up shop. While we celebrate new businesses in Forest Park's designated business areas around the "X", unfortunately inquiries for conversion to business uses continue to be made about residential-properties west of the "X".

I am thankful that the planning department informs potential buyers of the present zoning status and asks them to contact the FPCA if they intend to apply for a zone change. Quite recently I informed potential buyers that we will not support a zone change for a residential property and would vigorously oppose any such petition. So the issue that launched the FPCA 40 years ago, continues today.

Just a little bragging. . . The Holiday House Tour, held about two hours after the last snow flake fell from a major winter storm, was once again successful. The tour bus service had a few kinks, but all in all, I think everyone appreciated a ride across the neighborhood on a cold, snowy day. Thanks to all who participated and very special thanks to Bill Malloy who once again pulled together a great tour.

Our pot-luck supper Annual Meeting was held in February. It was so good to see so many neighbors enjoying each other's company and an abundance of wonderful food.

Spring is here and it's time to look around the streets and do a little clean up. If we all pitch in and pick up, our neighborhood will be ready for the appearance of those much anticipated spring flowers.

I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood.

Enjoy Spring!
Jane Hetzel, President



Hand knit items and instruction, call Bonnie, 733-3394

Be a guest at your own party. I will cook, set up, clean up. Also pet sitting and other tasks.
"Your Fairy Godmother" Belle Rita Novak,
737-1724 belle-rita@map.com

News & Notes



Neighborhood Clean Up Day April 17 9:00AM Forest Park Library

Cut backs in city services makes volunteer participation more important than ever. Spend a few hours helping with this annual neighborhood clean up. Bring work gloves, rake and broom. Coordinator: Belle Rita Novak, 737-1724.



Farmer's Market Opens May 4

Rain or Shine
Goodwill Shoppes Parking Lot
Plants, produce, breads and more



Zoo in Forest Park Open daily 10-5 starting April 15
For program information and special events call 733-2251
or check forestparkzoo.org

Library Advisory Group Tackles Accessibility

Branch Library Advisory Groups comprised of neighborhood residents are forming throughout the City. Their role is to advise the Library Commission of the needs and interests of each branch and to advocate for the branch with the Commission and in the community.

The Forest Park Advisory Group has about ten Forest Park library lovers who have been meeting since early December. Progress already has been made on one of the first issues tackled by the group. A local architect has offered his services free of charge to develop a plan to make the building accessible to everyone. The group is looking into the cost and benefits of several approaches and the feasibility of volunteer labor with the goal of presenting a plan to the Commission in late March or early April.

Advisory group meetings are held at the library on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested, please join us at the meeting or contact Jeanne Kaiser at 747-7007 or jkaiser413@aol.com for more information.

Do you know how to restore old furniture? Reggie Wilson, head Librarian at the Forest Park Library, could use your advice and help in making some vintage wooden library furniture sturdy and strong. Call Reggie at 263-6826

Tips from Nick and Nora

Street Light Out? Call 800-268-2000 to report outage...that is the only way Northeast Electric will know the bulb needs replacing.

Street lights with red tape on the top are turned off because of budget cuts.

Your library card is your ticket to the Quadrangle Museums on Friday afternoons from 1-4 p.m.

Stop delivery of the bag of newspaper coupons by calling 788-1100.

Questions about how to solve neighborhood problems...contact nickandnora@forestparkca.com

**Family occasion?
Out of town guests?**


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Mark Your Calendar

Neighborhood Clean Up Day April 17
Farmer's Market Opens May 4
Illumination Night June 19

**The Forest Park Civic Association
Invites you to
Join!**

Send \$15 check payable to FPCA
along with this form to:
FPCA Membership, P.O. Box 80708
Springfield, MA 01138-0708

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