

# Forest Park News

A Publication of the Forest Park Civic Association

## *Illumination Night Set for Magnolia Terrace*

by Jane Hetzel

On June 16, 2007 Illumination Night will take place on Magnolia Terrace. On the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>, neighbors will be busy preparing strawberries for strawberry shortcake, luminaria will be lovingly made by the children and parents, house porches and front yards will be decorated with great imagination from delicate lights and candles to the very decked out creative theme. The Gazebo, the event's center piece and band shell, will be very carefully and gently put together by the good folks on Magnolia.

At 6:30PM the children will gather

for the children's bike parade. Bike decorating will be done by the riders for their tour around and around the terrace. Prizes will be awarded.

At 7PM neighbors and friends will

begin to gather for another evening of fun. Raffle tickets will be sold and prizes announced, Glow sticks will be purchased and made into bracelets, headbands, belts etc, luminaria will be lit, strawberry shortcake

and lemonade will be eaten, scholarships will be given out, porches will be judged and awarded for their décor and the band will play on until around 10pm. Once

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*Bring a lawn chair, the family, neighbors and friends and join us on Magnolia Terrace on Saturday, June 16-rain or shine.*

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.....  
again a neighborhood will come together for a nice old fashion neighborhood social.

The Forest Park Civic Association has been sponsoring Illumination Night for a good long time. It was the brilliant idea of our neighbor Steve Hayes. He thought our neighborhood would be a great place to duplicate a similar event held on Martha's Vineyard. So it was born.

It is a lovely tradition and a good way to start off the Summer.

Bring a lawn chair, the family, neighbors and friends and join us on Magnolia Terrace on Saturday, June 16-rain or shine.

Any questions, call Jane Hetzel, 736-1368. ☼

## Springfield Paddle Club: A Place for Forest Park Area Residents to "Chill"

by Jim Lacey

For nearly a century, residents of Forest Park section of Springfield and their families have cooled off at one of the City's best-kept secrets – The Springfield Paddle Club.

The club is one of the Western Massachusetts region's oldest not-for-profit public swim clubs and Forest Park residents at invited to sign up for the summer 2007 swimming season.

On hot summer days, families from throughout the Forest Park neighborhood can be found on the sandy beach of The Springfield Paddle Club, nestled

along the shore of secluded Bass Pond off South Branch Parkway.

The swim club features a long sandy white beach, life-guard protected swim area, floating dock, wooded picnic and fireplace areas, bath house, outside shower facility, kayak rental, free use of floatation tubes and plentiful parking. Families with children, couples and individual.

Although located on South Branch Parkway in Springfield, membership consists primarily of residents from Forest Park. In fact, many Forest Park families have been coming to the club for generations.

"One of the things that really makes this club special is that so many generations of families, friends and neighbors are members – it's a great way to cool off and spend time with my neighborhood friends," said Brooke Lacey of Magnolia Terrace, who is also a Paddle Club Board member. "In particular, our children, Connor, age 12, and Mavis, age 9, just love it! They get to play in the lake with many of their Forest Park friends."

Founded at the turn of the century, the Springfield Paddle Club is the one of the oldest continually operated public swim clubs in the region. It hugs the northern shore of the 11-acre Bass Pond. With crystal clear waters fed via a natural underground spring, Bass Pond boasts among the finest water quality in New England.

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Email board members using the first name  
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## President's Letter

# Notes, News and New Initiatives

Brian Sears

Hello to all of my Forest Park neighbors. Springtime is definitely my favorite time here in the Park. This spring seems to be filled with even more enjoyment. The neighborhood, park, and city seem to all be off to a great start this year. I just want to scratch the surface of all of the wonderful things happening this year.

Visually, our neighborhood is looking great. Homeowners are busy painting, planting, and revitalizing one house at a time. If you haven't been to the park recently, you are missing a true gem. The park is looking very good, especially with the addition of the walk on both sides of the ball fields. The Forest Park Zoo has a number of new additions and has had a number of improvements just in the past year. We are also blessed to have a local Farmer's Market located at Trinity Church on Sumner Ave every Tuesday. Our neighborhood streetscape is improving under the leadership of Bill Malloy, who has been hard at work finishing his quest to rid our streets of tree stumps. To date, we have added 52 new trees to Forest Park's streetscape and have removed over 200 stumps. In addition, Keep Springfield Beautiful had a very successful clean-up day on April 28<sup>th</sup> when Forest Park residents joined together and removed litter from over 10 neighborhood streets. It is actions like these by Springfield residents that helped Springfield in being named 4<sup>th</sup> on the list of "Best Green Places" by *Country Living Magazine*.

With regards to public safety in our

neighborhood, Concerned Citizen's has worked tirelessly, and under appreciated, over the past year to helping clean up lower Longhill St. by bringing the majority owner of the Longhill Gardens condominium project to housing court and forcing the condo units into receivership. This is a major win for the neighborhood and allows for hope to the gateway of our neighborhood.

I am also very pleased with the recent agreement between the City and Springfield Museum Association. In the agreement, the City will get ownership and control of all of the branch libraries and

*In a time when many communities are having trouble keeping their libraries open, Springfield has stepped up and fought for this important asset.*

a \$1 a year lease on the central library. In a time when many communities are having trouble keeping their libraries open, Springfield has stepped up and fought for this important asset. We now control our own libraries, and the City has shown a commitment to keeping the libraries open and available to all of the City's children and residents. Don't forget the icing on the cake, this agreement also grants all residents free admission into the Springfield Museums.

In closing, I know I am biased – but remember to look at all of the wonderful things that living in Forest Park has to offer. Be proud of our neighborhood and City. I know I am.

I hope to see everyone at Illumination Night on June 16<sup>th</sup> on Magnolia Terrace.

Brian Sears

## Paddle

Continued from page 1

Among the club's many activities are individual swimming instruction for both children and adults, social events and overnight group camp-outs on the beach.

The club is open daytime hours, seven days a week, during the season.

Interested persons should call 413-746-4486, or visit the Web site at <http://www.springfieldpaddleclub.com> for more information. Individuals or families must sign up before they will be permitted to swim. ❁



*Photos from left to right: Anna Sheedy, Julia Cary and Mavis Lacey, all of Forest Park, share a moment on the beach at the Springfield Paddle Club; Anna Sheedy, Mavis Lacey and Julia Cary, all of Forest Park, cool off at the Springfield Paddle Club; Bridget Cary of Forest Park enjoys the beach at the Springfield Paddle Club.*

# The Farmers' Market at the X

by Belle Rita Novak

This year's farmers' market (our 10th year) is off to a glorious start. The weather has been cooperative and now that we're at Trinity Church for the second year, folks know where to find us.

As always each new market season has changes. Our honey vendor, Don Mayou, lost 25 beehives, so wasn't able to return to our market. On the plus side, Outlook Farm is bringing local honey and the associated products with them. Their honey is from Warm Colors Apiary in Deerfield.

We will have one new produce vendor this summer, Rachel Chandler-Worth from Goshen. She is a beginning farmer, so she is starting out small. As of this writing I am expecting another new vendor who will be bringing 4 different kinds of chili and cornbread. He will be selling individual portions if you want to have lunch at the market, and larger portions for you to take home.

Chicoine Family Farm raises grass-fed beef. They started with us mid-season last year and are with us each week this year. They use no hormones or antibiotics and their cows are fed only the grass that grows on their farm. Ask Susan Chicoine whatever questions you have about their

farm. It's fascinating.

Caroline Pam and Tim Wilcox, proprietors of The Kitchen Garden were married on May 5th. I was privileged to attend their wedding which was delightful. I complimented their parents on raising such fine children.

One of the joys of patronizing a farmers' market is that it is different each week. Many people have told me over the years that their best meal of the week is on Tuesday nights. Something you can buy this year that wasn't available last year is pre-made pizza by Berkshire Mountain Bakery. Just pop it in the oven, and voila! A meal.

We have a new sponsor this year—Concerned Citizens for Springfield, a blight remediation organization established in 1995. Many of the improvements in our neighborhood are due to CCS' efforts. The FPCA is also a generous sponsor. Many thanks!

Supporting local agriculture is extremely important. It's good for the economy, it's good for the landscape, and it's good for our bodies. The market is open every Tuesday, May through October, from 12:30 to 6 at Trinity Church on Sumner Avenue. See you there! ❁

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6:30pm

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