

# Forest Park News

A Publication of the Forest Park Civic Association

What's Inside • June 2009

## Good News For The Neighborhood!

The Forest Park Civic Association, in partnership with Concerned Citizens of Springfield, has received notification from the Mayor's Office that its application for Neighborhood Targeted Improvement Grant money, totaling \$40,000, has been approved, pending our attendance at an orientation/question and answer program. This is a Federal grant program, administered by the City of Springfield, which is restricted to physical improvement to publicly owned land, space, and structures.

At the March, 2009 FPCA board

meeting, President Brian Sears announced the availability of the funds;

*Grant money, totaling \$40,000, has been approved, pending our attendance at an orientation/question and answer program.*

several Board members stepped forward to volunteer to work on the application, which had to be submitted within two weeks. While there was no lack of suggestions for projects, the group, including members of Concerned Citizens, were able to focus on specific targets, mainly at the X.

Our thanks to those who jumped in to insure that our neighborhood was able to receive its share of the funding! Look for the improvements in the coming months.

### Plans include the following projects:

- The pedestrian crosswalk at the X will be upgraded
- Limited landscaping of shrubs and some trees on Sumner Ave.
- Upgrading, repainting of parking stripes, and landscaping of public parking lot on Dickinson/Belmont Ave.
- Graffiti removal throughout the Forest Park neighborhood
- Upgrade of small triangle at intersection of Sumner, Belmont, and Dickinson St.

## Illumination Night Scheduled for Saturday, June 20

On Saturday June 20, 2009 Illumination Night will take place on Marengo Park and Bellevue Ave. On the morning of the 20th, 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 Marengo & Bellevue.

At 6:30PM the children will gather for the children's bike parade. Bike decorating will

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## Illumination Night Program

### WHEN

Saturday June 20, 2009

### WHERE

Marengo Park & Bellevue Ave

### SCHEDULE

**6:30**

Children's Parade

**7:00**

Luminaria will be lit.

Strawberry shortcake, lemonade, and raffle tickets will be sold.

Porches will be decorated and ready to welcome visitors.

**8:00**

Ozzie Williams and the Marion Street Band will play

### MC for the evening

Kari Njiri  
*from NPR and WFCR*

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# Letter from the President

It's another wonderful Spring in Forest Park. We have held the annual *Keep Springfield Beautiful*, the Farmer's Market is open, and Illumination Night and summer aren't far behind. This Spring I am asking each of my neighbors to think about two things: Volunteerism and Neighborhood Activism. Volunteerism – each of us have decided to either live in Forest Park or have a direct love or connection with Forest Park and the City of Springfield.

The City of Springfield, as always, needs volunteers to become a better place for all to live, work, and play. There are so many ways to volunteer and make an impact in the neighborhood. If you made it to the Annual Meeting, then you already know one way to volunteer and make a significant difference. Dr. Alan Ingram was the guest speaker and he reminded us how easy it is to volunteer for

the Springfield School Volunteers. You can volunteer with SSV either by calling 787-7015 or going on-line at [www.springfieldschoolvolunteers.org](http://www.springfieldschoolvolunteers.org).

Neighborhood Activism – with the budget cuts we already know about and possible future cuts, we must all step up and do our part to make sure that our house, street, and neighborhood look good. Keep your house and yard looking nice, don't be afraid to sweep the street in front of your house, and please pick up any litter you see around the neighborhood. In addition, graffiti has become a real problem. Graffiti usually is tied to gang related activity and needs to be remediated sooner rather than later. If you see any graffiti, please call Springfield's Graffiti Hotline at 787-6145.

Brian Sears

## Three Reasons You Should Become a Springfield School Volunteer

### 1: It's good for our community

Being a volunteer in the Springfield Public Schools shows that you're a community-minded individual. Everyone in the community is accountable for the education of our youth.

### 2: It's good for our students.

Students benefit from having mentors or tutors who are also role models - people who can help them think about future possibilities. You could be a role model that impacts a student life forever.

### 3. It's good for you!

Our volunteers say that their experience as Springfield School Volunteers are uplifting and rewarding. Springfield's Mayor Sarno has been a volunteer for 15 years and says that it has been an "enriching experience" for him.

### Springfield School Volunteers

For more information or to volunteer, please call or visit our website.

413-787-7015

[www.springfieldschoolvolunteers.org](http://www.springfieldschoolvolunteers.org)

Springfield  
School  
Volunteers   
Making a Difference Since 1969!

# Fabulous Farmers' Market Re-Opens May 5

By Belle Rita Novak

The 12<sup>th</sup> season of our neighborhood farmers' market is just about to start and it will be even bigger and better than before. Every year is slightly different; just when I think that we are set with vendors, something changes.

A New Leaf, a day program of the Center for Human Development that grew plants including herbs and annual flowers, lost its funding, so they will not return to the market this year.

We will have three new vendors—Sweet Pea Cheese from N. Granby, CT will have many different flavors of goat cheese and some cow cheese as well. Sweet Pea is a new venture for the Hayes Dairy Farm. Barnum-Buckley Farm from Southwick will join us in June with goat meat, eggs, and maple syrup. They also raise pigs and will take orders for a half or whole pig and it will be cut and wrapped to order. They will also take orders for heritage turkeys later in the season. Another farmer from the Flats Mentor Farm in Lancaster will be coming to the market with mostly Asian vegetables and herbs. Flats Mentor is an immigrant farming project and many farmers use that land. All of these farms have websites, so look them up.

Many folks eagerly await the appearance

of local asparagus. Some years we have had it the first week, and other years we have to wait a few weeks. It all depends on how warm the spring is. Last year we had it the first couple of weeks, and then it got cold again, so we didn't have any for awhile. But, it will be there early along with spinach, salad greens, possibly kale and maybe wintered over carrots and parsnips. Every week it changes, so it's good to get in the habit of stopping by each week. Of course there will be meat, dairy, honey, cheese, and baked goods to tempt your palate.

Last year was a terrific year for our vendors. I think the synergy was there. There is more in the media about the benefits of buying locally produced food,

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*When we started this market in 1998, we had 5 vendors. Now we will have 19, and I had to refuse several people who wanted to be part of our market this year.*

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## Illumination Night *Continued*

*Continued from page 1*

be done by the riders for their tour around the terrace. Prizes will be awarded.

The FPCA is proud to have Kari Njiri of NPR and WFCR as the MC for this year's event.

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, and porches will be judged and awarded for their décor.

The Ozzie Williams and the Marion

food safety is a concern, our farmers' market is a community space, and the variety of the offerings just makes people want to come back often.

As most of you know, Sam Smyth, youngest son of Mike and Dale Smyth from Trinity Farm was seriously injured on the farm in October. He severed his spinal cord along with other injuries. He is making progress and is back to work on the farm. We had a very successful fundraiser in March where we raised over \$12,000. Thank you all.

When we started this market in 1998, we had 5 vendors. Now we will have 19, and I had to refuse several people who wanted to be part of our market this year. You all help to make this market so successful. Thanks, and let's make 2009 even more successful. Remember, we're there in the rain and the heat and the cold.

And, one last bit of news—Caroline Pam and Tim Wilcox, parents of Lily and owners of The Kitchen Garden, are going to have another baby in September. Our market grows from within and without.

Street Band will perform two sets between 8pm and 10pm. Once again a neighborhood will come together for a nice old fashion neighborhood social.

The Forest Park Civic Association has

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*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.*

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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 Marengo Park and Bellevue Ave. on Saturday, June 20th – rain or shine.



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 Other \_\_\_\_\_

## *Bing Arts Center Announces Event*

The Bing Arts Center is pleased to present "Spring Into Summer", a wine & food tasting event featuring an art exhibit, silent auction, and music. It will take place on Saturday, June 20, from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Bing Arts Center, 716 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA.

The exhibit will feature work by Springfield School Department art teachers. Music will be provided by the Eric Bascom Trio. A variety of interesting items will be available at the silent auction. The event is sponsored by Eddie's Fine Wines & Liquors, with food by Elegant Affairs, desserts by Palazzo Café, and flowers by Flowers, Flowers!

Tickets are \$25 per person and are available at: Flowers, Flowers!, TD Banknorth, Eddie's Fine Wines & Liquors, Family Pizzeria Europa, (all on Sumner Ave) and Palazzo Café (in the Sovereign Bank building at Court Square), The Flower Box on Carew Street, and at the Farmers Market at the "X", courtesy of Dan Higgins, Blue Moon Coffee Roasters. All proceeds will help prepare and equip the Bing Arts Center for opening. Phase one of the neighborhood theater's renovation and development as a nonprofit community arts center is nearing completion.

### sears

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