

# FOREST PARK NEWS

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Fall 2003

## Forest Park Market... will open soon

A new full service supermarket soon will be coming to the vacant Foodmart site. Forest Park Market will feature multi-ethnic foods and produce.

The "X" Main Street Corporation has been working with the new owner, Ted Papakonastadinou, to explain the potential market for this store and the previous conditions at Foodmart that kept many consumers from shopping there. Mr. Papakonastadinou, or Teddy as he likes to be called, has emphasized that superior customer service and store cleanliness will be top priorities.

Current plans for the store include maintaining a kosher bakery, fish market, butcher, floral department, deli and the addition of a beer and wine department.

Investment in this new location will be substantial. Building improvements include a new roof that has already been installed, interior and exterior painting and signage, landscaping and a lot of new equipment.

When asked why he chose to invest in Springfield, Teddy replied that although he had never been here before, when he saw the site and explored the neighborhood, he felt it had great potential.

Teddy says his philosophy for this store is a simple one – he wants to focus on the community and have fun with this new chapter in his career.

Having been in the construction business, as well as owning and managing many properties in New York, this new venture is something he has thought about for a long time. While this may be the first supermarket venture for his organization, they have surrounded themselves with very knowledgeable consultants.

Although his primary residence is currently in Greece, where he loves to garden and raise animals with his

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## Mayoral Debate

Sunday October 19  
7:00 p.m.

### Forest Park Middle School

Moderator: Beth Green  
League of Women Voters

Candidates Charles Ryan and Linda Melconian will answer questions about how they will lead the city.

Questions will be formulated in advance by the debate planning committee.

Email your questions to [allena@forestca.com](mailto:allena@forestca.com) or call Allen Agnitti 746-5916.



wife and four children, he will be spending most of his time in Springfield for the next several months.

Assisting him with the development of the market is longtime friend, Alex Anastasiadis, who is currently looking for a residence in the Forest Park Neighborhood.

Watch for the grand opening of Forest Park Market early this fall. Store hours are scheduled to be 7 AM to midnight, Monday through Saturday and Sunday from 7 AM to 9 PM. The store also will restore the free shuttle service for shoppers spending \$25 or more and needing a ride home within three miles of the store.

While much work is still to be done to get the store open, it is critical that we encourage our friends and neighbors to give this store their full support so we will never again be in the position of not having a full service supermarket where we call home.

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Email board members using the first name and first initial of last name@forestparkca.com  
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Check us out on the web at:  
**www.forestparkca.com.**  
Our email address is  
**admin@forestparkca.com**

## Meet Patrick Markey Chair of the Springfield Library Commission

Library Commission chair Pat Markey of Oxford Street in Forest Park, joined the commission because he, "was outraged by the lack of respect Springfield Library and Museum Association leadership had for Springfield residents" and "thought [he] could do better."

Pat wants the five (soon to be seven) member commission to do business in the open with no surprises for anyone and maximum opportunity for participation by library users and the general public. He also hopes it will evolve into a truly responsive body, able to respond to the needs and desires of all constituencies.

When asked about the sale of the Mason Square library branch, Pat said, "It's a travesty and a theft from the people of Springfield who are responsible for paying off the 20 year bond the city floated to renovate that building to be a state-of-the-art library!" As for the Forest Park branch, Markey "would like to see it handicapped accessible and modernized."

A graduate of Cathedral High

School, and the University of Notre Dame, before entering Georgetown University Law School, Pat worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay and became fluent in Spanish. His legal experience includes work as a clerk for Judge Harrington in Federal District Court in Boston, and three years in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Married in 1996 to the former Jennifer Maloney, he is the father of three young children: Brendan, Nora, and Daniel.

Pat finds libraries comforting places and has fond memories of the 16 Acres Library where, as a child, he participated in the summer reading program. He looks forward to the day when all library branches will be open six days a week, ten hours a day, and seeks to foster a library system that is used by and responsive to the rich diverse population of Springfield.

"With the right mayor and the right city council, this can happen. My short time as a commissioner has made it clear to me that a little money goes a long way when it comes to libraries." says Pat.

### FP Library Update

- Projected reopen date is late September-early October
- Hours will include two long days & two short days; 24 hours/wk total
- Hiring process for FP Branch and Volunteer Coordinator is ongoing
- Volunteers are needed for pre re-opening clean-up.  
Contact Sheila McElwaine, sheila.mcelwaine@comcast.net or 788-8898
- **Detailed information available at [www.forestparkca.com](http://www.forestparkca.com)**

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

## Calendar

**Clean Up Day...**commit a few hours to your neighborhood.

**Oct. 18 9:00 am** meet at the Forest Park Branch Library  
Belle Rita Novak, 737-1724

### Halloween Party for Kids

**Oct. 26 4-5pm**



Fairfield Triangle

Jennifer Markey, 746-5512

### Holiday House Tour

**Sunday, Dec. 7**

A major FPCA fundraiser. To help contact Bill Malloy, 734-6894; attymalloy@verizon.net

## President's Message

Good news prevails at the corners of Oakland St. and Belmont Ave. The Library soon will reopen. There's a new business, Park Pizzeria, just across the street...notice the planters and swept sidewalks... and soon we will have a new market. These changes bring vibrancy to our neighborhood.

On November 4, we each have an opportunity and obligation to influence the future of Springfield by voting in the elections for mayor, city council and school committee. The people who hold these offices very much affect what happens in our city and our daily lives and every vote counts.

The two mayoral candidates live in our neighborhood and have agreed to participate in an FPCA sponsored Mayoral Debate.

If I don't see you at the X Farmer's Market, the Library, in our new market, walking in the park or around the neighborhood,  
*I hope to see you October 19 at the mayoral debate.*

Jane Hetzel, President

## A Belmont Ave. Upgrade

Concerned Citizens for Springfield, Inc. hopes to help stabilize a congested area through improvements to 300 Belmont Avenue.

Built around 1930, this three-story building has two store fronts at the ground level and four apartments on the two upper floors in a congested block on Belmont Avenue.

Exterior renovations began this summer with the help of a grant funded summer jobs program.

The large area of blacktop was removed from the front of the building and replaced with a center sidewalk and two areas for

plantings. The lower front façade of the building was replaced, the entrance door modernized and the trim painted.

These changes will soften and enhance the visual appearance of the building from the street.

Behind the building, storm doors were installed on the rear door of the apartments, a new basement entry door was installed, a small shed was removed and the basement cleared of non-used partitions. Future plans include updating of the heating system to reduce energy usage.



## KUDOS ! KUDOS! KUDOS!

Despite the CLOSED sign, a team of volunteers tended the exterior of the FP Library throughout the summer...they cut the lawn, planted and watered flowers, pulled weeds, collected liter, and swept sidewalks!

They are Sheila McElwaine, Mike Rosenthal, Bill Malloy, Eddie Iavicoli, Jeri Stolk and Margaret Tarbet!

People like this make Forest Park a great place to live. ***Kudos to all!***



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**Mark Your Calendar**

**Mayoral Debate**  
**October 19 7:00 p.m.**  
**Forest Park Middle School**

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

**Join!**

Send \$15 check payable to FPCA  
along with this form to:  
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