

Forest West Newsletter

Forest West Community Improvement Association (FWCIA)
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Newsletter Deadline for July Issue:
6/16/14 by 11:59pm

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President's Letter

It's hard to believe that summer is almost here. The repairs at the pool have been completed and the pool will be available to open Memorial Day weekend as usual. Pool applications, as well pool hours for Memorial Weekend (and the rest of the summer) will be available on our website. Applications and pool hours will also be sent out via email in the next couple of weeks. Additional pool applications will be available at the pool once the pool opens.

I would like to thank those who contacted Ellen Cohen's office concerning the apartments, all of the gunfire, and the Antoine corridor in general. Mr. Bonem did finally reply to me via email, saying that they are working with the DRT unit of HPD in investigating our concerns. I did have an officer with HPD call me; he was supposed to have passed my info along to another officer with the DRT, and this officer is supposed to contact me. We will see. I will send further updates out via email.

- David Ojeman

Have you joined our email program?

Visit <http://forestwest.com/contactus.htm> and click the "Subscribe to List" button at the bottom of the page

Important Notice about Deed Restrictions

The FWCIA will reconvene its regular inspections of residences after Memorial Day. We encourage residents to take this time to proactively evaluate the condition of their

homes. Deed restrictions are explained in detail on our website at:

http://forestwest.com/deed_restrictions/deed_restrictions.htm#_

According to homeadvisor.com, some common complaints to Homeowners Associations are **weeds, dead grass, junk / clutter, bad paint, old cars, and visible defects**. Forest West is not immune to these complaints, and we, as a community, must work together to provide a safe neighborhood. Unkempt yards and houses especially pose a threat during inclement weather.

If you know that your home's current condition violates our deed restrictions, use our online form (see below) to acknowledge the issue and to explain how you will resolve the issue. Please keep in mind that if your back yard is not secluded by a privacy fence, the back yard is also held to the same expectations as your front yard.

To report violations, fill out the online form at http://forestwest.com/deed_restrictions/deed_violations.aspx

Spring Tips from the Garden Club



You've decided it's time to prepare your spring garden. So let's get started! Be sure to prepare your garden soil before planting. Don't dig soil when it's wet. Soil tilled when wet will dry into clods of concrete! Check soil structure before

digging by lightly squeezing a handful of soil in your hand. If it holds a shape when slightly squeezed but crumbles easily when whisked between your fingers, go ahead and dig, but if it stays in a hard ball, allow the soil to dry an additional couple of days. Add organic material such as compost or peat moss to enrich the soil. Till or spade to a depth of 8-12 inches to help loosen the soil before planting.

You also will need to nourish your garden. Both organic and inorganic fertilizers provide plants with the nutrients needed to grow healthy and strong. Organic fertilizers work over time to create a healthy growing environment, while inorganic fertilizers provide rapid nutrition. If you choose an inorganic fertilizer for your flowering plants, use a fertilizer with more phosphate. If you desire taller plants, select a fertilizer with more nitrogen. One caution--wait to fertilize and prune your spring-flowering shrubs such as azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons until after they have finished flowering.

Begin planting warm season annuals such as impatiens, marigolds, petunias, sunflowers, zinnia, lobelia, and alyssum as well as summer-flowering bulbs like tuberose, gladiolus, dahlias, and calla lilies for your flower gardens. Vegetable gardeners can plant tomatoes, snap beans, cantaloupe, black-eyed peas, cucumbers, pepper plants, radishes, summer squash and watermelons.

Apply mulch to flower and shrub beds. Spread 1-3 inches of mulch such as bark chips, wood shavings, or other organic material under shrubs trees, annuals and vegetables in order to save water, smother weeds, and keep soil cooler.

The best way to tell when a garden needs watering is to look at it. If the soil is dry to a depth of a half an inch or so, it's time to water. Lawns generally need one to two inches of water per week.

Control weeds now through late May before they get large and difficult to remove. Just vow to deal with weeds early. When they are tiny seedlings, a light scratching of the surface will destroy them. Left unmanaged, in a few weeks they will have strong roots and will be much more difficult and time-consuming to control. Weed prevention products can be used before weeds pop up but be sure to read the directions to make sure that the preventive won't harm you or the plants that you want to grow.

Pests are easier to control when young and when the

infestation is localized or limited. Stroll through the garden every few days and look things over. Turn over a leaf or two here and there to check for pests huddled up making plans for the big invasion. Check the directions to determine the right insecticide for your pest problem. Keep an eye out for aphids and get them before they take over your plants Use either a strong stream of water or use safer soap products.

You've worked hard -- now enjoy the fruits of your labor!

Civic Committee News

The Merchant Fair has been postponed. We encourage residents to sign up for our neighborhood email program; all updates in Forest West are shared via email. The next community events will include our Park Renovation and Fundraising (Phase 2) and our Annual 4th of July Kids Parade. All meetings and information will be sent out via email.

In regards to our Community Center, I encourage residents, their children, and/or grandchildren to email their "wish list" of what they'd like to see at our Community Center and Park. If any residents are interested in fundraising efforts, please email Elizabeth Tuma (elizabeth.fwcc@gmail.com). Park ideas are posted on our Facebook page, located at facebook.com/ForestWestNeighborhood

The Civic Committee is seeking new members to help us serve our community; we are also seeking two informal officers. First, we need a sharp individual to serve as secretary during meetings, and to record our meeting minutes. Second, the committee needs a talented photographer to serve as our historian, and to take photos at our annual neighborhood events.

Collier Library News



In addition to all of the great programs they currently offer, the staff at Collier are now offering Family Time every other Saturday at 10:30am. Family Time gives local families an opportunity to mingle with other families in a setting that promotes literacy and creativity to children of all ages. Please visit the library for more information and pick up a monthly calendar.

Heavy trash (yard only) pick up is May 22nd.
Heavy trash (waste + yard) pick up is June 26th.
Heavy trash (yard only) pick up is July 24th.