



March 2015

FOREST PARK

Progress

IMPORTANT COUNCIL ACTION



Top row: 1st Vice Mayor Wynndel Burns, Mayor Chuck Johnson, Sheila Cottle, Bottom Row: Charles Southall, Denise Holt, Diana Herbe, and David Lives

- Council passed an ordinance revising Chapter 152 (Building Code) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Forest Park, Ohio to address the posting and unauthorized removal of building department notices.
- Council presented the 911 Hero Award to Winton Woods students Makayla Jones and Rylee Trainor for calling 911 on two separate occasions, saving their family members' lives. Rylee's mother accepted the award on her behalf as Rylee was sick at home.
- Council approved legislation accepting the bid from Prus Construction for the Northland Boulevard Improvements Project. Construction will begin in the Spring of 2015.
- Council passed a resolution extending a moratorium on Use and Occupancy applications and permits for child day care services, Type "A" family day care homes, and religious organizations.



PREPARING FOREST PARK POLICE OFFICERS



Police officers who were hired before the 1999 Columbine, Colorado school shooting had little to no active shooter training. Since that tragic day, our nation has seen numerous mass shootings. While we hope it does not happen in our area, it is now a necessity to be prepared for a worst case scenario. For many years, the Forest Park Police Department has held school safety as a paramount concern. Having a legacy of traffic enforcement in school zones, we were also one of the first local agencies to adopt school safety tubes and plans. These protocols which have been established are now being expanded and shared. As our nation has experienced more school shootings, lessons on how to prepare and deal with them are emerging.

For the past two years, Forest Park Police Lieutenant Jim Ward and School Resource Officer, Vada Harris, have been working diligently to prepare our officers and school officials. In 2014, a joint active shooter training and preparedness program was developed with Forest Park Police & Fire, Greenhills Police & Fire, and the Winton Woods School District.

In late 2014, command staff officers from each entity met for a mock shooting incident using a table top model. This joint exercise was the precursor to training which was conducted recently by all first-line supervisors of the Police Department. The next phase of the plan is to conduct hands-on style training at the schools with all police and fire personnel in the Spring of this year.



Police, Fire and school officials discuss first responder duties in the event of an active shooting incident at our schools.

GOSPELFEST has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 21st at 6:00 p.m. The event, which was previously cancelled due to weather, will be held at Dayspring Church of God at 1060 Smiley Avenue. 🎵



AWARD WINNER FOR OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL REPORTING & DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION—A TREE CITY USA COMMUNITY





2014 INCOME TAX FILING INFORMATION



The City of Forest Park has **mandatory filing** for all residents (age 18 and older), business owners, and property landlords. This return is due by **April 15, 2015** even if you do not have any taxable income and even if no tax is due.

Effective 1/1/2014, residents who work outside Forest Park and pay other city/county employment tax receive a 25% credit for taxes paid to other municipalities. This allows for a maximum credit of .375% of taxes paid to another municipality based on a tax rate of 1.5% or higher (25% x 1.5%). If the tax rate of the other municipality is less than 1.5%, the maximum credit is 25% of that municipality's tax rate.

***If it is estimated that you will owe more than \$200 tax the following year, you MUST set-up quarterly estimated payments with the final payment being made by January 31st the following year to avoid a penalty.**

We strongly encourage you to electronically file your 2014 Forest Park Income Tax Return. The e-filing instructions are available on the City website www.forestpark.org. If you choose not to e-file, printed forms, instructions, and other information may be obtained from the City website, the City Tax Office (1201 W Kemper Road at Winton Road), and the Forest Park Branch Library (655 Waycross Road).

FOREST PARK TAX OFFICE HOURS

The Forest Park Income Tax Office is open year round for taxpayer assistance on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. During the tax season from March 2nd-April 15th, the Tax Office is open daily Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, with additional extended hours and days in April as follows:

Mondays and Thursdays (April 2, April 6, April 9, April 13, 2015) from 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Tuesday April 14, 2015 from 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Saturdays (April 4 and April 11, 2015) from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

For your convenience, we are also offering an e-file lab in the City building for you to electronically file your 2014 Forest Park tax return. The lab will be open March 30 – April 15, Monday through Friday, from 8:15 AM – 4:00 PM on a first come, first serve basis. The lab hours the week of March 30 - April 3 will be by appointment only; please call 595-5261 to reserve a seat.

If you visit the Tax Office for assistance in filing your Forest Park return, you should be prepared for a long wait. Walk-in taxpayers will be served in the order they arrive in the Tax Office. We will stop accepting walk-in clients when we reach the number of persons we can serve by closing time and we may close early at the Tax Commissioner's discretion.



FILING DOCUMENTS NEEDED

Provide or bring with you ALL of the following items to file/e-file your Forest Park Income Tax Return:

W-2 Forms for all employers

Federal Tax Return (Form 1040, pages 1-2)

Federal Schedules C, E, K-1 (if applicable)

Other income information (unemployment/welfare/disability/retirement/Social Security benefits)

You must submit to our office (by **APRIL 15, 2015**) your completed and signed tax return/e-filed return that includes the above listed supporting documents and payment due, if any. You are subject to a \$100 late file penalty if you submit your Forest Park Tax Return after the April 15 date. You may also be charged late pay penalty and interest if you do not pay your 2014 tax due in full by the April 15 date. The Tax Office may also request additional items to complete your filing.

If you have any questions, you may call the Tax Office at (513) 595-5211 between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM or refer to the City website www.forestpark.org under "City Departments" on the "Finance & Tax" page.



FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY MANAGER RAY HODGES

As we begin another year, City employees have already begun working on a number of projects to strengthen our community and better position Forest Park as a great place to live and work.

Rebuilding Northland Boulevard this Spring— Work will begin on a \$3.2 million streetscape improvement project along Northland Boulevard. This ambitious project (much of the cost funded by state and federal grants) will dramatically upgrade Northland from Waycross all the way to Route 4. Improvements include new traffic signals, curbs, and driveway aprons. Medians will be improved and the road re-surfaced with new asphalt. New landscaping, signage, and decorative benches at bus stops are also part of the plan. Work is scheduled to start in late March or early April of 2015 and should be completed by June of 2016.

More development— Similar projects in other parts of the community are producing positive results. Recent upgrades to Waycross Road helped us attract new business investment to this area. For example, later this year FRY Fastening Systems and Cincinnati Testing Laboratories will invest more than \$9 million on two separate projects at Carillon Park, keeping 100 jobs in the City. Improvements to Winton Road helped us bring several new businesses to that area including Sims Furniture and Eagle Financial. Tennessee-based RGT Management demolished the old Fuddrucker's building clearing the way for two new restaurants, Taco Bell and KFC.



Congratulation and Thank Our Fire Department— The Fire Department recently secured a \$40,000 grant from the State Bureau of Workers Compensation to help us purchase two state-of-the-art medical cots and lifting devices for our paramedic/emergency medical teams. These are not just standard cots but specialized devices with battery operated lifts. They are paired with a specialized lifting device that can extend from the vehicle, lift up to 700 pounds, and then retract back into the ambulance. In addition to helping us guarantee the safe transport of patients, these devices will also prevent injuries to members of our fire safety team.

This much needed purchase would not have been possible without the successful efforts of our employees to secure this grant. Rest assured our entire city staff is constantly looking for the most cost effective ways to provide residents and businesses with the highest possible level of service.

These projects are part of our comprehensive plan to strengthen the city for residents and businesses alike.

May 5th Election Day Fire Levy Information



On May 5, 2015, the following levy will be placed on the Forest Park ballot:

PROPOSED FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TAX LEVY (ADDITION) CITY OF FOREST PARK

An addition of 5.75 mils to an existing tax levy of 9.7 mils for the benefit of the City of Forest Park for the purpose of operating and maintaining a fire protection department and emergency life safety services at a rate not exceeding 5.75 mils for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.575 cents for each \$100.00 of valuation, to be levied for a continuing period of time. (A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.)



Redevelopment in Action

We are continuing to implement the Redevelopment Plan to either remove or renovate blighted and derelict houses in the City. The City accepted ownership of a house on Exmoor that was water damaged but otherwise structurally sound. It has been completely renovated and is under contract to a new homeowner.

The City was also able to acquire the two houses on Harkin Drive. They were sold to a renovator at the beginning of February. Both houses are expected to be finished by the end of summer.

Finally, two derelict houses, one on Carnegie and the other one Gresham, will be demolished by April. The City received Neighborhood Stabilization Program grant funding to help pay for the demolitions.



The kitchen of renovated house receives a face lift



Environmental Awareness

Featured Programs

"Reforestation" Forest Park Program

Tree "planting" program for residents.

Funding available but limited (first come...first served!)

75% DISCOUNT!

100 trees will be distributed
6 ft. trees 2 trees per home maximum



Local Electronic Drop-Off Program

Cleanlites Recycling
419 Northland Blvd.
(513) 641-4155
Weekdays, 6 am—3 pm



Remember:

- Check in at the office when dropping off items.
- Some items accepted free other at a minimum cost.
- Visit our website for a complete list of acceptable electronic items

Spring & Summer Events

- **Winton Woods Cleanup—RAIN OR SHINE**
Sat, April 11, 9 am to noon (registration begins 8:30 am)
FREE cookout lunch for all volunteers! Raffle Prizes!
Great for individuals, families, community groups, churches, etc.
- **Large Appliance Recycling—call to schedule pickup**
April 27 thru August 28
*Appliances with Freon—refrigerators/freezers, air condition window units, and dehumidifiers **PLUS** stoves, water heaters, clothes washers/dryers, water heaters, and dishwashers.*
- **Citywide Yardsale**
Saturday, May 2
Early Registration ends—Friday, April 10
Registration form on website
- **Summer Day Camp Scholarships**
Cincinnati Zoo and Winton Woods Park
50% subsidy.....Call for registration information

For additional information

Call: 595-5263
Email: environment@forestpark.org
www.forestpark.org/environmental



Six (6) Recycling Drop-Off Sites Now Available For Residents and Businesses

City Building • Forest Chapel • North Central Branch Library • WW Schools (High, Intermediate, Elementary)

City of Forest Park
1201 W. Kemper Road
Forest Park, Ohio 45240



Municipal Building.....	595-5200
Clerk of Council.....	595-5208
Community Dev./Zoning.....	595-5215
Building Department.....	595-5264
Tax Department.....	595-5211
Fire Department.....	595-5243
Public Works/Stormwater.....	595-5258
Police Department.....	595-5220
Recreation.....	595-5252

To receive this publication via email contact rachelw@forestpark.org

Yard Contest Judges Needed

For more information or to volunteer, contact Rachel Wilson at rachelw@forestpark.org or 595-5202.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Saturday, March 28th
9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Frisch's
11990 Chase Plaza
Forest Park, Ohio

All you can eat breakfast buffet!
Adults: \$7.90
Kids ages 4-10: \$6.20
Kids under 3: Free w/ paying adult

Coloring Contest with Prizes