



Squirrel's Eye View

Sawmill Forest Civic Association

www.SawmillForest.org

March 2014

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Message from the President

Dana Smith, president

Hello Neighbors and Happy Spring!

I would like to thank the social committee for a fantastic Christmas visit with Santa! Fun was had by all, even the carolers joined in. The beautification committee purchased new wreaths for the street signs in November. Thank you to the committee for a decorating our wonderful neighborhood and removing them in a timely manner. We have several events planned for spring so take a look at our web site for further info coming to the site soon.

On another note, construction of the new Walmart is wrapping up and plans are for a June 2014 opening. Target is building on Sawmill Parkway and Hampton Drive in Powell. All of this will impact traffic challenges faced by our community. We plan to submit a traffic study request to the City of Columbus once the stores are built. I will keep SFCA updated as I learn more about these issues.

The board is looking for a volunteer to chair the Sunshine/welcome committee. If you are interested in delivering a small gift of appreciation to our new neighbors, please contact me and I will be happy to give you information.

Our next SFCA meeting will be held at the home of Dick & Betty Barry (2624 Sawmill Meadows Avenue) on Tuesday, April 1 at 7 PM. We hope to see many new faces attend and get involved in SFCA.

Discovery Playground Update

Stephen Kron, membership chair

The Discovery Playground was a wonderful wooden play area just outside of Olde Sawmill Elementary School. Originally constructed with the help of about 500 neighbors in 1992, it had fallen into disrepair over the years and was torn down earlier this year. The City of Columbus has proposed to build a modest playground in its place. However, several neighbors have joined together to develop a plan to create a much larger playground for our neighborhood children. A colorful flyer which explains these plans in more detail accompanies this newsletter.

Please consider donating your time and money to this neighborhood cause. Working together we can do wonderful things for our community! Visit the website (www.discoveryplayground.net) for more details.

Friendships and the Forest

Anna Lee, vice president

Dear Neighbors,

Over the years that our family has lived in 'the Forest', I've had the pleasure to meet so many wonderful neighbors. At first, it was through our three young boys. We first lived in the very front of the neighborhood on Sawmill Forest. We were new to Dublin and it was summer so the boys hadn't made any friends yet at school. Our oldest had just finished 1st grade and we had 2 that were younger. I met some wonderful neighbors with boys the same age – some of you are still in the neighborhood and some have left but we still try and keep in touch.

Later, we moved to the house we're in now in the court at Sawmill Meadows and have enjoyed many wonderful years watching the boys play ball and "ghost in the graveyard" games with neighborhood friends. I grew to cherish and depend on my neighbor friend 'moms' – friends who I could chat about the day with and the joys and challenges of raising kids. I later got involved with the neighborhood book club, and Bunco groups – and have socialized with (but still not learned how to play the game) the euchre group which is still going strong. With the addition over a year ago of our feisty dachshund, Buster, I've adapted and grown to see the quiet time and beauty in my dog walks with him. These walks haven't facilitated being able to stop and chat with neighbors, though – Buster doesn't allow that too much – but with our schitzu, Kiki and previous pug, Dave and I have enjoyed lots of walks around the neighborhood and chats with friendly neighbors.

I think about this because I am at a different stage in my life now with the neighborhood groups and friendships. I am and always will be a social person – but am shy in big groups even though I'm drawn to them – often preferring smaller or one-on-one chats. All of these things have enriched my life – and I wish for them to continue in our 'forest'. With the ease of technology and social media and all of the other competing ways to be busy ... isn't it still important to take time to come out and join clubs or groups (or instigate one of your own)? That's what's made this neighborhood special to me – the size and fact that we've always been a small and welcoming place!

Spring is coming ...

Treasurer's Report

Tricia Gale, treasurer

I thought it might be a good idea to share with you where your money goes when you contribute to the SFCA. This past year we have funded several things to enhance the beautification of our neighborhood as well as activities to unite us as neighbors. Your dues have paid for upkeep to the Sawmill Forest sign in front of the neighborhood, hanging baskets through the spring and summer as well as new wreaths and garlands on all our street posts during the holidays.

We have provided welcome kits to those who have moved into our neighborhood as well as magnets with the trash and recycling schedule on them. We pay for our community website, which continues to be regularly enhanced. We pay for all of our social activities, including the block party in September and the Halloween hotdogs and chili. We also have money set aside to plow the snow when the City hasn't made it to us. We were able to do this once last winter, but somehow were able to dodge that bullet this year (so far!).

Thank you for paying your dues, as they make it possible for us to do all of these wonderful things within our neighborhood. As of 2/6/14 our bank account balance was \$1024.19.

Social Committee Report

Sue Bardos, social committee chair

This year's Easter egg hunt will once again be hosted by the Mueller family (2501 Sawmill Forest Avenue). It is scheduled for Saturday, April 12 at 9:30 AM at their home. Please bring 12 plastic filled eggs for the hunt. Each child will then find 12 eggs in their backyard. Coffee and donuts will be provided prior to the hunt. Come join us for a fun family event.

This past year the social committee hosted the subdivision's holiday party, the neighborhood 4th of July parade, as well as the end of summer block party. During the holiday party, Santa was able to attend to meet and greet the children from the neighborhood. There was hot cocoa and candy canes were given out. Even with the frigid temperature, we still had a handful of families attend. During the 4th of July parade we served donuts, juice and coffee to kick off the event. Children and their parents from around the subdivision decorated bikes, scooters, and pets to walk the Sawmill Meadows and Sawmill Forest loop for the parade. Dick Barry led the parade in the family van. During the end of summer block party families from the subdivision brought food and we had a pot luck style buffet. We supplied the refreshments and the entree as well as a bounce house for the kids to jump around in. There were also soccer, football, corn hole and other games that the families could enjoy.

Plans for 2014 are to repeat the same activities that we enjoyed in 2013.

Social Committee Members: Dick and Betty Barry, Kirk and Sue Bardos, Phil and Kim Johnson, Ashmeed and Myshoon Esack.

Trash Collection Changes

Stephen Kron, membership chair

Starting this month, our neighborhood's recycling and yard waste pickup pattern has changed. From now on, both recycling and yard waste will be picked up together every other Wednesday. These pickup days are listed on the new magnets that were recently distributed throughout the neighborhood.

The next few recycling and yard waste pickup days are March 26, April 9, April 23, May 7, May 21, June 4 and June 18. During this period, our regular weekly trash pickup will be in Thursdays, switching to Fridays following Memorial Day in May.

SFCA on Facebook?

Stephen Kron, membership chair

At our last meeting the idea of having a community Facebook page was introduced and enthusiastically received. If anyone is interested in managing such a site, please contact SFCA president Dana Smith.