

FELLOWSHIP FOREST

FFCA NEWSLETTER: FALL 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Neighbors,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer. It is an honor to serve as your association president for the next 2 years. As a resident of the neighborhood for 11 years, I can say that the Fellowship Forest Community Association has been instrumental in developing my appreciation for our community. I found that attending the various FFCA social events over the years provided a great opportunity to meet neighbors and build valued friendships. As President, I plan to work with our board to continue our time-honored traditions as well as endeavor to make improvements where we can to strengthen our community, maintain our quality of life, and hopefully improve our property values.

To that end, in June we circulated the "new and improved" **Fellowship Forest Neighbor Handbook** to provide a reference for everything from community contacts to county services. If you did not receive this, please send me an email (kkopenick@baltimorecountymd.gov) and I will make sure you get a copy. In addition, Merritt Keffer and Meaghan Grimm are also hard at work updating our **Fellowship Forest Directory** to be distributed soon.

The FFCA board recently voted to create a Fellowship Forest website that will introduce who we are and why we love our neighborhood. Another project in the works is the "Triangle Beautification" that will give some much needed TLC to a space that marks one of the entrances to our community (where Hillen Rd meets Putty Hill Rd). We are hoping to identify someone in the community with a "green thumb" to lead a group of volunteers on this effort. I would also like to pursue the possibility of adding some signage to key locations around our neighborhood that would more formally recognize Fellowship Forest as a neighborhood. This will be a longer-term initiative and dependent on cost and resident enthusiasm.

And finally, I wanted to provide an update regarding the infamous fence that was installed last fall around much of the County Club of Maryland property. According to Joe McGuire, Club Manager, since the fence project was completed "the incidents of trespassing, theft AND vandalism have been greatly reduced" on their property

I hope to see you at the Wine and Cheese event on October 1.

Kevin Koepenick
FFCA President

2016 – 2017

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FELLOWSHIP FOREST ONLINE

By Stuart Lucas

First of all thank you for allowing me to serve on the Board. I have already enjoyed getting to know more of you at the fantastically wet Fourth of July Picnic and at our first two meetings. When Doug and I were looking at our house, we went Googling for this 'Fellowship Forest' mentioned on the real estate listing. We didn't find much about the history or even the boundaries of the neighborhood. We currently have a Facebook page, but there is not much background there. So I offered to create a simple website to share our neighborhood with the whole world, and especially those looking to move into the area. The board has approved the creation of a new website which we feel is an opportunity to better establish our name in the community and let others know about our association.

I am in the process of designing the site, but **I need your help**. We would like to share our history, current events, helpful links and some pictures through the years. Please look through your albums for old and current photos of your homes, neighborhood activities and the beauty of our forest in the four seasons. Perhaps sit down and write up one of our memories. The page will be a work in progress for a few weeks, but look for an email blast soon with its debut.

In the meantime, please go to our Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/fellowshipforest>). You can share your stories and pictures there or send me an email (tstewartlucas@gmail.com).

The Annual Wine & Cheese is this Saturday!

Saturday, October 1st

7:00 – 10:00pm

614 Lake Avenue

(at the home of Ann Sterns)

Bring an appetizer and bottle or two of your favorite vino or drink.

HALLOWEEN REMINDERS

By Laurie Fick

Fall is an exciting time of year. It starts the cycle of the new school year, cooler weather, and the beautiful color changes in our neighborhood trees. Yet, for children young and old, the countdown is for one thing and one thing only... Halloween!

While the kiddo's thoughts are filled with costume decisions and their favorite treats, adults know safety is truly the top priority. National statistics show children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car on Halloween than any other time of year. Since Fellowship Forest does not have sidewalks, it is extra important to teach our children and drivers proper street safety on Halloween. So

here are just a few reminders for parents and homeowners alike to keep our next generation safe on a fun-filled night.

- If you are welcoming trick-or-treaters, make sure your entrance is well-lit and the path is clear.
- Outfit children with glow sticks and flashlights so they are easily noticeable in the dark.
- Remind children to walk on the side of the street that faces traffic, and not down the center of the road. This goes for adults too!
- As a driver, please be extra cautious pulling into a driveway or crossing an intersection. If you see children near your car, please give them the right of way.

FOR THE LOVE OF TREES

by Kathleen Naughton

My husband Bob and I fell in love with Fellowship Forest in mid-summer 2012 as we were exploring the purchase of Mr. Lee Jones' home on Lake Drive. We were several days away from making an offer on the home when the derecho/tornado tore so many trees apart and battered homes. Those horrific events gave us pause as we contemplated residing in a neighborhood with aged and enormous trees... but then we dove in! As my dog, Sadie, and I have walked our lovely lanes, I can't help but admire our cathedral of green. It has become an interest of mine to learn more about how to care for the trees we have and to add new trees as the old ones decline.

Thanks to John Lasbury, Board Certified Master Arborist, who has donated his time to share his wealth of knowledge about trees, and more specifically about the trees in our neighborhood. He has been working in Fellowship Forest for close to 30 years. He was my consultant for this article.

John shared a little botanical history of our neighborhood; it is a climax forest (seedlings and saplings of "climax" species are very tolerant of shade (oak, beech, maple, poplar). This is key. Climax species' seedlings are capable of surviving in the understory, subsequently becoming the overstory. When this happens, the forest's mix of species remains relatively constant for extended periods, sometimes for hundreds of years. But a tree's life expectancy is ultimately based on its "site" – water access, sunlight, pollution, and soil quality. Some of those environmental factors are out of a homeowner's control – but two of them, soil condition and water, are modifiable. As John described, a full tree is a healthy tree. When you gaze through it you should not see much sky; if you do see a lot of sky, it is time to think about pruning, fertilizing and watering.

Here are his general care suggestions: Prune your trees every 3-5 years, removing dead wood and any branches that threaten your home. Thinning is generally not needed and may be detrimental. Make sure you hire a reputable company to do this work, as our trees are quite tall and old. Fertilize your trees every two years or so, in the fall. When the meteorologists say we are in "drought conditions" water your trees once a week for 8 hours.

What should you do if you are concerned about the health of your tree, or perhaps you aren't even aware of what problems to be looking for in the trees around your home?

Here are a few of John's tips: a tree that is not full and green or dying back at the tips is in need of help. Pruning, fertilizing, watering and an arborist's expertise may help you save your tree – although it can be very hard to reverse decline. If a tree's leaves are yellowing, consider fertilization. Vines should be removed from trees; they can add up to tons of weight and are a great hiding ground

for fungi which are a tree's chief enemy. If you have an Ash tree (we did not see any on our travels), beware of the

Emerald Ash Borer; specimen trees can be treated, however these treatments can be costly and are prohibitive for large numbers of trees. Untreated ash trees all die.

Lately there have been webs on some of our trees, but not to worry; these are Fall web worms, and they do little damage so late in the season. The gypsy moth is no longer the threat that it was in the 1980s. It is here in Maryland, but so are its natural predators, so things are currently in balance. Tree bark normally sheds so no action is needed if you see some in your lawn, unless the wood beneath the bark is exposed; then you should call an expert. Vertical cracks in the trunk of a tree can be a sign of a weak core, and your tree should be evaluated urgently. If your tree is growing near a power line, closer than 10-12 feet from the lines, call BGE, but be sure you have some input as to how important the tree is to you, and how you would like it reshaped.

Our "Forest" is ever-changing, and some trees have a life expectancy they may be reaching. What can we all do to help keep our Forest charm? John suggests planting a new tree or two every year. Consider native species such as oak, beech, maple, and poplar, and include some evergreens as well. Loblolly pines are hardy and drought tolerant; other evergreen species can be used for winter fill-in. Try not to have more than 10% of one species on your property; this can mitigate any wholesale devastation to one species. Space your new saplings based on their scale (oaks and poplars can grow to a 100 feet, maples to 60 feet) so be sure to plant new trees of these species at least 20 feet apart. Consider some minor annoyances that can be characteristic of certain trees: sweet gums have spikey fruit that drop and can be a hazard on walkways, red buds have unattractive seed pods, some fast growing trees (Bradford pears, lindens) can have weak structures and will split in a good storm. Remember that some trees (oaks, beeches, Hickory, walnuts) are allelopathic (cool word isn't it?) and they secrete a substance around their root system that will not allow grass and other plants to grow.

John suggested two websites that can be most helpful for homeowners. They are the International Society of Arboriculture www.isa-arbor.com where you can find an arborist, view embedded links for homeowners, and connect to other similar websites/pages. The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension <https://extension.umd.edu/hgic> is another resource to FFCA homeowners with a wealth of information on plants, trees, and a weekly listserve on current horticultural issues in Maryland

It is my hope that we can all keep our Forest as lovely in the future as it is today.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Roads Update from our President: I am happy to convey that the upgrades to the Towson Reservoir and new water main along Hillen Road and Bosley Avenue are nearly complete. I was informed by Baltimore County that the repaving of Hillen and Stevenson Roads are both scheduled for sometime this fall.

Thank You: We'd like to send an extra THANK YOU to everyone who worked on the **Fellowship Forest 4th of July picnic:** Stansbury's for "hosting", George Good as grill-master, Kathleen Naughton, Mary McGowan, Nancy Riegel, Doug and Stewart Lucas for setup & cleanup

Congratulations: Carol & Kenneth Lew would like to welcome their new grandson, Liam Paul Webster. Liam was born on August 5th, and is the son of their son Ian.

Moving News: Last month we said goodbye to longtime Fellowship Forest residents, Robin and Gerry Vahle. Robin and Gerry moved into 803 Hillen Road in 1980. In their 36 years here they raised two sons (both Calvert Hall graduates) and have opened their home to both sets of parents, when needed. Robin served as our neighborhood treasurer from 2014-2016. She noted that they feel truly blessed to have lived in Fellowship Forest and her only regret is not getting involved in the neighborhood association sooner. Robin and Gerry will relocate to Corpus Christi, Texas in early October.

Erica and Jordan Hadfield, along with their two children, Nolan (age 5) and Nora (age 3) are moving in to 803 Hillen Road at the end of September. Erica and Jordan are originally from Baltimore County and "can't wait to get back home" after living in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

We also bid good-bye to the Fantry's on Hickory Lane. Their house is Under Contract and we look forward to meeting the new neighbors who will join our Fellowship Forest community!

We would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to **Mary McGowen** for her service and dedication as the FFCA President for 2014-2015. We appreciate your guidance and many volunteer hours!
