

FOREST PARKS COMMUNIQUÉ

NEW BOARD, NEW VISION, THE FORMULA FOR SUCCESS.

Board Transition

On June 22, 2020, Forest Parks held its annual HOA meeting where, among other things, a new board was voted in by the residents of the neighborhood. This year's board consist of:

Kim Brown - President
 Michael Haley – Vice President
 Emma Solis – Secretary
 Diana Feller – Treasurer

During the meeting, the upcoming budget was presented and approved unanimously. Projects from 2019 were reviewed.

- ✓ The potential development off Essex Dr was withdrawn and the property was not rezoned.
- ✓ The entrance sign was cleaned and painted.
- ✓ The cypress trees were removed in the large island.
- ✓ Shelby county came out a couple times patching potholes and put us on a list to have our roads reviewed to see if it is time to repave them.
- ✓ The gardenias under the Crape Myrtles were not growing and dying so they were removed.
- ✓ Electrical and foundation issues were found at the entrance sign. To address both issues, we had to remove the shrubs in front of the sign and have someone hand remove the tree roots growing into the sign foundation. The electrical was replaced and the foundation was inspected. French drain was installed around it to help water move away. It is possible we may lose some trees around the sign. Once all the repairs were completed, the entrance was replanted.

The first meeting of the board was held on July 18, 2020. Many new ideas were discussed, and issues were addressed. Among items discussed are the improvements currently underway like, the renovation of the neighborhood road signs. Also addressed the issue with neighborhood safety from outside offenders.

The board had discussions on ways to cut excess waste and to maximize the funds available for improvements. These and many more items will be addressed in the issues to come. Vice President Michael Haley commented after the meeting, *"It is obvious we have a solid and competent team that will address and rectify problems."*



Mr. Jerry L. Horton standing in front of his home and garden at 172 Essex Drive.

Neighborhood Spotlight

Each quarter, the Forest Park Communiqué will focus on our neighbors spotlighting those who we have all seen but may not have stopped to get to know. We wave as we pass; you know the neighborly things we do. But how well do we really know our neighbors? This quarter we talked with Mr. Jerry L. Horton of 172 Essex Drive. Jerry was gracious enough to take time from his yard work to speak with us and answer some questions inquiring minds want to know.

FPC: Tell us about your family.

JH: I live here with my wife who is an RN at Lakeshore Hospital. I have a son who is married and lives in Chelsea. He has 3 children. My daughter who is also married lives in Tuscaloosa and has 4 children.

FPC: Where are you from originally?

JH: I grew up in Talladega County where my wife and I married. We lived in Sylacauga for 22 years until after our kids graduated from high school and started college.

FPC: What brought you to Chelsea?

JH: I worked at Kimberly Clark for 38 years, and my wife was at Lakeshore. We decided to split the difference in the ride and found Chelsea to be halfway between her job and my job. That was a main reason we chose Chelsea.

FPC: Tell us about what you did at Kimberly Clark?

JH: I was in the paper manufacturing industry. We manufactured news print, products for Kleenex, and disposable products for hospitals.

FPC: Is that where you retired from and when?

JH: Yes, in 2007 (I think).

FPC: Do you have any hobbies?

JH: Well working in the yard. We enjoy the beach and going to the lake. I rode motorcycles for years until my back got so bad. Now more so just working around home.

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Neighborhood Spotlight

FPC: Do you have any hidden talents?

JH: Not really, I just enjoy helping other people when I can.

FPC: You mentioned travel, if there is one place in the world you could go where would that be?

JH: I've always thought about Australia.

FPC: What is your favorite kind of food?

JH: Probably seafood, mostly all of it.

FPC: What team do you pull for and why?

JH: Well, I've always been an Alabama fan. I fell in love with Bear Bryant and the football team. Just always loved them. I love Nick Saban too. Just always been a fan.

FPC: When did you move to Forest parks and what made you choose here?

JH: We moved here in October 1999. We looked at several subdivisions around and this was just the most appealing neighborhood. We loved the area around here and that was the main reason we moved here.

FPC: What would you like to see changed about the neighborhood?

JH: (Long pause followed by laughter) Yes, there is, but I shouldn't say it. There are things that could be improved upon. I'd like to see the roads paved, we have a lot of holes.

FPC: What is something you would like to tell all your neighbors?

JH: One of the biggest things now is with the Coronavirus, plus a lot of people out of jobs. If we can all just be protective of one another and look out for one another is the main thing. Try and keep everyone safe in our neighborhood, because you never know who is going to venture into the neighborhood not wanting to do good things.

Thank you to Mr. Jerry Horton for being our spotlight resident this quarter. If you know of someone that should be our next spotlight interview, please let us know at hoa@forestpark280.com.



The entrance of the new trail from Conroy Ln. leading to Cliff Rd and Park Rd.



The entrance of the new trail from Cliff Rd. leading to Conroy Ln. and Park Rd.

New trails in the neighborhood ready to be explored.

The new trail provided courtesy of Shelby County, was constructed in a weeks time and is now ready for the enjoyment of the residence. This new access links Conroy Lane and Cliff Road together. From there, you can venture south, all the way to Park Road. The trail is suitable for both walking and bicycles. There are curves and dips as the trails make their way through the woods, so an advanced rider should be fine when traversing the path on bike.



NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

Come and get it

Food Trucks

Starting in August through September we have a variety of food trucks to help around the kitchen. Many come for the food and stay for the fellowship. Bring your favorite chair and join us at the park for good food. Menus are posted on the events section of our Facebook page Forest Parks 280.

August:

8/11 Saws BBQ

8/18 Bayou Bros

8/25 Hyderabad Dum Zone (Indian Food)

September:

9/1 Broad Street Peaux Boys

9/8 Pazzo's Big Slice Pizza

9/15 Ruscellis Italian

9/22 Eugene's Hot Chicken

9/30 Ricarda's Filipino BBQ

Back to School Bash

The HOA will not hold a back to school bash this year. We feel with social distancing guidelines we could not have it. The event may turn into a Schools Out for Summer event. This change would spread our events out better having it as a kickoff to summer.



Halloween Extravaganza

We will change the event slightly so we can have it. We will not have inflatables but will have other activities and food.

Treasure Hunt

We will have our 2nd annual treasure hunt in October. This one will be a little more difficult for all of the treasure hunters.



Chili Cook-Off

Part of our Halloween Extravaganza changes will be our 1st ever Chili Cook-Off. We thought this would be a great fall event. Is there anything better than Chili and Football in the fall? If the weather cooperates, we will have a TV out playing football for everyone's enjoyment.

Check our website and FB October 1st for more details on our October Activities.

Make sure to stay updated on event changes. Check our website or Facebook page prior to the event.

DID YOU KNOW

How Good We Really Have It?

We all have things in the neighborhood that we want to see improved. Road signs fixed for better visibility, lights on the street to improve lighting and neighborhood security. All these things are supported by the HOA annual dues. When each resident moves into Forest Parks they are presented with the fact that Forest Parks is governed by an HOA. The covenant for the neighborhood sets the standard on how things should look and are available on our website. One thing that remains constant for everyone is the low annual HOA dues. Forest Parks dues is currently **\$200.00** for each resident that lives in the subdivision.

The board works hard to keep these annual dues low. Upon researching other neighborhoods through we would share some examples close by.

Forest Parks is considered a non-amenity community. Other similar neighborhoods charge the following:

Dunnivant Square. Their association dues are **\$65.00** per month. (**\$780.00** annually)

Villas Belvedere on Hwy 41 annual dues **\$375.**

The Cottages at Chesser annual dues are **\$355.00.**

On June 30, 2020 (the end of our 2019 fiscal year) the open Accounts Receivable balance for the neighborhood is \$63,390.60.

If you have questions you would like to address regarding your outstanding balance, would like to set up a payment plan or need help logging on the payment portal please contact our management company at

cbooth@nhmlc.org

or if you need to discuss with the board

HOA@forestpark280.com

Meeting the Neighbors



Here at Forest Parks we have a special bond with our neighbors. They are more than friends, they are family. On behalf of the HOA board and the current residents of the neighborhood, we would like to personally welcome all the new families who have chosen to make Forest Parks their new home. During the past few months, and even with the recent lockdown, we have been pleased to see so many families

walking through the streets alone, or with the whole family. I would encourage the residents to take time and offer a friendly greeting or a simple hand wave. This simple gesture is one way that we can all show a little bit of kindness and fellowship in these trying times. This brings to mind the Mitchells, who arrived last winter. They live at the corner of Conroy Rd and

Clairmont. Whenever they are in their driveway, sitting in chairs, they are always quick to address those walking up and down the street with a friendly hello or even an offer to come and sit for a spell. It is this kindness that we all should all try and live by.

The Golden Rule- Treat others as you would want to be treated.

Be In The Know On Events.

Forest Park offers many ways to keep in touch with the board and the events that are planned. The following are ways to stay informed.

Website: www.forestparks280.com

This is a great way to stay informed on events and information affecting the neighborhood.

Email: hoa@forestparks280.com

One of the fastest ways to reach the board and express your concerns. From problems observed in your area or discussions on how to set up dues payments. This is a great resource.

Facebook: **Forest Parks 280**

A private “residents only” group page will give insight into the community, events and, most importantly, when the food trucks are coming. It is also a great way to get to communicate with your neighbors or to find out who has lost power or internet. Ha!

Twitter: **@280parks**

This is a great way to stay informed. Updates and events are posted as soon as they are scheduled. A twitter feed is also visible on the website Events/Social tab.



FOREST PARKS SAFETY

Residents brought up safety concerns on our neighborhood Facebook page. The neighborhood is dark and invites crime. Talk of streetlights came back up. We looked at lights and found the cost to purchase decorative lights was much higher than anticipated. Even if the lights were affordable, we will have some issues installing them along the roadway. We (the residents) have different views on installing road lighting. Other personal options for you- Alabama Power can put up lights on the power poles by your driveways. Some residents said they love the lights and the power company charges a small fee to your monthly bill.

We have had contact from a local resident safety expert. He has provided several options we will explore to make our neighborhood safer. These options will be discussed in a future newsletter.

One option that we are looking at now are cameras at the front entrance. There is a company that offers license plate reader type cameras for HOA's. The name is Flock Safety, please check out their website (flocksafety.com). This seems to be a very reasonably priced option. A camera or two could be mounted at the entrance and it will record the license plate and time stamp.

The data is stored on the cloud in case there is an event. The data can be accessed selectively to help solve a crime. The representative spoke of some cases where police departments can receive notifications if a vehicle is in our area that is associated with an amber alert or violent crime.

The cost of this is very reasonable I have a rough estimate of \$2000/yr. (\$166.67/mo.) per camera installed. I would like your feedback on this and any other safety ideas you would like to send in. To keep the emails organized please send emails on the safety subject to safety@forestparks280.com

FOREST PARKS FUNNIES

Summer Word Search

S	F	L	I	P	F	L	O	P	S	I	S	L	E	P
S	U	N	S	C	R	E	E	N	A	N	U	O	S	I
A	U	N	G	U	E	S	T	H	D	O	N	V	W	C
B	N	E	G	J	O	C	E	A	N	F	S	S	I	N
A	P	O	O	L	J	U	R	Y	S	U	H	O	M	I
R	U	G	U	S	A	T	A	E	U	N	I	H	S	C
B	M	G	C	R	E	S	A	M	A	S	N	I	U	S
E	E	N	U	F	O	N	S	U	M	M	E	R	I	P
C	M	A	A	S	T	O	H	E	T	H	I	N	T	R
U	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	S	R	H	L	A	I
E	R	O	B	I	L	K	R	X	J	O	I	O	U	N
I	I	N	S	E	F	I	T	S	F	U	N	P	T	K
C	A	R	E	L	A	X	S	U	L	Y	L	O	L	L
E	J	U	N	E	A	C	F	A	M	I	L	Y	S	E
I	C	E	P	O	P	A	H	O	T	S	R	E	L	R



AUGUST
BARBECUE
BEACH
FAMILY
FLIP FLOPS
FUN
HOT
ICE CREAM

ICE POP
JULY
JUNE
OCEAN
PICNIC
POOL
RELAX
SHORTS

SPRINKLER
SUMMER
SUNGLASSES
SUNSCREEN
SUNSHINE
SWIMSUIT
VACATION



CRAYONSANDCRAVINGS.COM



COULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME...
WHAT THE HOA NEEDS THIS MUCH MONEY FOR?!
...
AND WHEN WILL YOU FIX ALL THE ROADS?!



A NOTE FROM KIM BROWN

Our HOA repairs and expenses can only happen because of all of us, the residents of Forest Parks 280. If we didn't have funds coming in, we could not have paid for needed repairs, maintain our beautiful landscape or have lights to illuminate the entrance. Thankfully, we live in a great area with low dues. I look forward to working with our board to find new ways to cut expenses and make our community even better.

We have great neighbors in Forest Parks 280. I feel we are part of a community and not just a face across the street.