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*The FPCA is a volunteer organization dedicated to improving and maintaining the quality of life for Forest Park residents. We strive to build strong ties between our Forest Park residents, businesses, civic leaders and visitors through programming and events.*



*President's Letter*

*Dear FPCA Members,*

We finished 2018 with a strong display of caring and pride of our neighborhood. The FPCA sponsored a community safety meeting with Mayor Sarno and Department heads and hosted a community walk on lower Belmont Ave area to address the safety needs that have been on our minds in the past several months. I would like to thank Mayor Sarno and all the department heads for their attendance and participation during these events. The X Christmas tree lighting was well attended and the X Christmas tree was lively bright. Thank you to the children at the Forest Park library and to Alexandra Remy for the wonderful decorations.

The FPCA annual meeting is scheduled for February 24th at the Holy Name Social Center at 5pm. Our speaker will be Karen Fisk, Director of Marketing with The

Springfield Museums. Karen will give us an update on plans for the Ted Geisel childhood home at 74 Fairfield St.

We have three openings on the board. Secretary, Website Coordinator and Vice-President. I encourage you to seek one of these positions as it is of vital importance to keep our organization strong and well represented. Thank you to Carol Kerr, Michaela Simpson and Katie Plante for their participation on the board and for helping me settle as president of the FPCA.

We still need volunteers to help with the set up and clean up for the annual meeting. Please, email me at [victordavila@comcast.net](mailto:victordavila@comcast.net) to sign up to help.

With regards,

*Victor Davila*

**FOREST PARK C-3 UPDATE**

*Contributed by Wayne Nelson*

The Forest Park C-3 Unit continues to work hard to make a positive difference in our neighborhood.

Here are a few recent examples of their work to keep our neighborhood safe:

**FPCA ANNUAL MEETING/ POT LUCK**

**Sunday, February 24th, 2019**

**4pm at the Holy Name Social Center**

**52 Alderman Street, Springfield**

**Please bring a dish according to the first letter of your last name:**

**A – H Main Dish**

**I – S Dessert**

**T – Z Appetizer.**

*Forest Park is one of the largest neighborhoods in Springfield with approximately 25,000 residents.*

*FPCA is the oldest civic association in the city (1964) Forest Park neighborhood has 6 public schools (Kensington, Washington, White Street, Sumner Avenue, Beal Elementary, and Forest Park Middle School), a public library, the largest park in Springfield, a golf course, and many businesses and organizations.*

*Membership in the FPCA is open to any resident and/or business in Forest Park.*

*All are welcome*

A suspect, wanted for a stabbing and robbery, was identified by a C-3 officer on a recent day in January, near the White St./Sumner Avenue intersection. The suspect resisted, so Forest Park C-3 Officer Daniel Billingsley wrestled the subject and was able to make the arrest so that this individual would not remain at large.

A car was stolen from the 400 block of Belmont Avenue on the afternoon of Jan. 31. A C-3 officer then located the stolen car, within an hour, parked on lower Ft. Pleasant Ave. Both occupants in the stolen car then abandoned the car and started running. A C-3 officer then chased one of the suspects over two fences, and that suspect fell into the frozen Mill River. Officer David Ninh made this arrest, and other C-3 officers assisted. The second suspect was arrested in a building stairwell near the scene.

Sgt. John Wadlegger, Forest Park C-3 supervisor, noted that officers have continued their regular neighborhood outreach during these winter months.

Recently they participated in an "Ice Cream Social" (and Movie) for 150 children at Washington St. School, an event which rewarded the children for reaching their academic and attendance goals.

Officers have been scheduled to participate in a Family evening event ("Spaghetti Supper") for White St. School teachers, parents, and students.

Finally, the C-3 Basketball League at Forest Park Middle School has concluded its successful winter season on February 12.

The League again has been a partnership between the C-3 Unit and the Sheriff's Department, and Coaches have included C-3 officers; representatives from the DA's office, Roca, and the Sheriff's Department; and other community volunteers. The Forest Park Middle School administration has been very supportive in supplying the school gym as the League location on Tuesday afternoons and evenings, and in providing the committed teachers who coordinated the program. There were ten to twelve teams, both boys' and girls' teams, from the Forest Park Middle School (6th to 8th graders) and from neighborhood elementary schools (4th and 5th graders). Many neighborhood families and community leaders also cheered the young players on at the January 24 All-Star Games between Forest Park and Holyoke teams, held at the Basketball Hall of Fame. The young players and their families seemed to appreciate this rare chance to play these games in the Center Court of such a well-known venue. Thanks to all who helped make this winter's Basketball League such a successful way to mentor neighborhood youths and to help them interact positively with law enforcement.

if you know of persons who could serve as coaches/role models when the league starts up again later this year, please contact Sgt. Wadlegger at C-3 [jwadlegger@springfieldpolice.net](mailto:jwadlegger@springfieldpolice.net), or Ed Caisse at the Sheriff's Department, [ed.caisse@sdh.state.ma.us](mailto:ed.caisse@sdh.state.ma.us)

Forest Park C-3 will be sponsoring the annual Family

"Easter Egg Hunt" Party in mid-April at Holy Name Church. Watch for the flyer as to exact date and details of this event. The Facebook page for C-3 may be found at <https://www.facebook.com/forestparkc3police/>

Please join us at the weekly team meetings: Monday at 10AM at Calvary's Love Church, 17-19 Oakland St., and Thursday at 6PM at Holy Name Social Center, 53 Alderman St. We truly need your ideas and participation to help reduce crime activity and to improve the quality of life in Forest Park! All neighborhood residents, businesses, and community agencies are welcome at the meetings and community events.

**HELP KEEP OUR FOREST PARK NEIGHBORHOODS BEAUTIFUL – PARTICIPATE IN THE GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN-UP**

*Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 8 am to 12 noon, KSB with Keep America Beautiful will be facilitating the Great Americas Clean-Up in Springfield. The FPCA is inviting all of our Forest Park neighbors to meet at the intersection of Belmont Ave and Fort Pleasant Ave. We will target the island on Lower Belmont Ave (intersection of Belmont Ave, Fort Pleasant and Locus St.) KSB will provide gloves, trash bags, and water for volunteers.*

**MASSIVE FPCA ARCHIVE DONATED TO THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS**

*Contributed by Mark Hambley*

Have you ever wondered where the Forest Park Civic Association

got its name? Or who was behind the designation of the Forest Park Heights Historic District? Or which local politicians tried to build expressways down Mill Street and Sumner Avenue for their personal gain?

The answers to these and scores of other queries -- ranging from details of the dozen or more law suits successfully fought by our forebears to maintain the residential character of our neighborhood to the more mundane details of the annual picnics attended by 1000 or more residents -- are among the nuggets of information contained in five large boxes donated to the Wood Museum of Springfield History by the FPCA in December 2018.

The geniuses behind this veritable font of knowledge are our own Pat Triggs and Joan Selig before her. From their successive roles as the FPCA Historian, they began and continued the process of collecting and organizing the trove of material which constitutes the archive of our civic association.

But this is only part of the story. Starting in 1963 under the leadership of Joe Gurvitch and Ellie Dashevsky, and supported by the invaluable pro-bono legal services of Jack Madden, a wide-ranging group of Forest Park neighbors with names which still ring with a close familiarity formed a band of hardy souls who spotted the dangers facing Forest Park from ill-considered zoning measures being proposed without local input.

From the perspective of historic preservation and open government, the "good old days" these were not. In the 1960s and

70s, there was no "311" to dial to report a problem. Neighbors who questioned zoning decisions, legal infractions, or ill-considered building projects were more likely than not considered nuisances by many state and city officials alike.

But these Forest Park activists persisted and fought the good fight to organize our neighbors and some local businesses to ensure that no changes to Forest Park or to the streets surrounding it would be tolerated or accepted without prior consultation. The creation of the FPCA was one result of their efforts. The mushrooming of similar movements throughout the city was another.

Surveying the multitude and variety of the material submitted to the Wood Museum, one cannot begin to count the hours it must have taken Pat and Joan before her to gather and organize the details, including the minutes, of almost every meeting held by our civic organization since its founding more than fifty years ago. Not only did they collate these and the hundreds of documents covering everything from court cases, to committee work, to various leisure, fund-raising, and motivational activities in our Forest Park neighborhood for almost six decades, but Pat also created a scrapbook of every local news article and report on rulings, decisions, and events which impacted the lives of our residents.

If you want to examine these materials for yourself, please visit the Wood Museum of Springfield History which is located on Edwards Street at the corner of Chestnut. In addition to its widely admired collections of Indian

motorcycles, Duryea and Rolls Royce vehicles, and other memorabilia unique to The City of Firsts, the Wood Museum also contains a wide selection of documentary and genealogical information not on only Springfield and its inhabitants but on other cities and towns in the Pioneer Valley, as well.

These materials, in addition to our archive, are available to the public between 11AM and 4PM, Tuesday through Friday, and on the first Saturday of every month, in the Wood Museum's reading room which is located on the basement level after one obtains a visitor's pass from the Quadrangle's Welcome Center. Entry for Springfield residents is free

Our intention is to have much if not all of these items digitalized for more ready accessibility at a future date. In the meantime, they can be accessed through the good offices of either Margaret or Cliff -- our Museum's archivists -- who oversee this important collection of Springfield history.

***"STANDARDIZED PATIENT"  
PROGRAM OF UMASS MEDICAL  
SCHOOL***

***Applicants Needed from  
Springfield Area Neighborhoods***

*Contributed by Wayne Nelson*

Are you interested in teaching future clinicians by serving as a UMass "Standardized Patient (SP)" for the University of Massachusetts Medical School--Baystate? The local medical school, based in Springfield, is seeking "per diem" employees to be trained to simulate a broad range of medical conditions in realistic and consistent patient encounters. SP's

also role-play communication challenges for the medical students and evaluate/document the students' performance through written and verbal feedback.

This is a long-established program that now seeks more Springfield-based folks who are representative of the communities Baystate serves. The local program currently serves several nursing schools, physician assistant schools, a pharmacy school, as well as the University of Massachusetts Medical School--Baystate in Springfield (UMMS-Baystate).

If you have questions about applying for this opportunity in Springfield, please contact Justin Ayala, Program Coordinator, Healthcare Education Office at UMMS-Baystate (413) 794-7727, or [Justin.Ayala@baystatehealth.org](mailto:Justin.Ayala@baystatehealth.org)

The statewide SP website is <https://www.umassmed.edu/icels/services/standardizedpatient/interested-in-becoming-an-sp/>

Note that although training of SP's is normally done in Worcester, the training can be arranged in Springfield if travel is an obstacle for applicants.

**"YOUNG SCHOLARS FUND" SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED**

*Contributed by Wayne Nelson*

The Young Scholars Fund's purpose is to identify inner-city-school 3rd and 4th graders who show potential for going to college and then help them get there. Currently the fund works with two Springfield schools, the Martin Luther King Junior Charter School

of Excellence (on Dorset St.) and the White St. School (on White St.) The Fund awards \$3000 scholarships to each recipient and then invests the money for the young scholars, to be given to them when they later enroll in college. Volunteer "Scholar Supporters" each work with a scholarship recipient and his/her family to encourage the young people to stay in school and to succeed in reaching their goals. Each school also sponsors a Scholars' Club for field trips, meetings, college tours, and community-service activities so as to help broaden the horizons for the Young Scholars.

In early February this year, at school-wide assemblies, four new recipients were awarded scholarships at Martin Luther King Charter School for Excellence, and four others received scholarships at White St. School.

If you are interested in volunteering your time as a "Scholar Supporter" to mentor future recipients, there is more information on the program at <https://youngscholarsfund.org> Or you may also E-mail the program at [youngscholarsfund@gmail.com](mailto:youngscholarsfund@gmail.com).

**FROM THE FOREST PARK BRANCH LIBRARY**

*Contributed by Maeleah Carlisle*

380 Belmont Ave. Springfield, MA. 413-263-6843.

**Teens:**

**3d Printer Dungeons and Dragons Workshop**, Thursday, Feb. 14 and Feb. 21, 3:15-4:30pm

Teens will design and print their own Dungeons and Dragons character miniatures. This will be a

two-session program. During the second session players will start a new D&D campaign with their freshly printed miniatures! Space is limited so please register in advance and come with your completed D&D character sheet! Don't have one? Stop by the Forest Park Library and your librarian can help you create one!

**We're celebrating our 110th Birthday!**

Meet Your Neighbors: Celebrate 110 years of the Forest Park Branch Library,

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019, 12-2pm

The Forest Park Branch Library is one of the original Carnegie Library. Celebrate 110 years of being here! Join our kickoff party by playing minigolf with our C3 Forest Park officers, participating in a scavenger hunt, and enjoying refreshments. Take time to view our historical display of the last 110 years and add your memories in a special memory book or bring a photo to scan to share. We are celebrating the diversity of the people that currently live or have lived in the Forest Park neighborhood. Come join the fun! We'll be celebrating different cultures and icons of our neighborhood throughout the year. For more information, call 413-263-6843.

**NEW: A Bookish Breakfast, Third Wednesday of the month.**

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 10-11am at Cafe Christo (513 Belmont Ave., Springfield), Ages 18 and up

Put on your reading glasses and enjoy a friendly discussion about popular short stories, or just indulge socializing over breakfast with fellow book lovers.

This month's short story, "The Good Cop" by Magnus Mills, can be read online at The Guardian's website, or can be found in his novel Once in a Blue Moon.

### Zoo on the Go

Saturday, February 23, 2019, 1-2pm

Live animals visit the library. Learn about animals from the Zoo in Forest Park. For Families and children ages 3-13. A raffle for a \$15 gift card.

### Stop by on World Kindness Day,

Tuesday, Nov. 13, for a special treat during open hours. Check our website for our full listing of programs at

[www.springfieldlibrary.org](http://www.springfieldlibrary.org)

### March

#### Dr. Seuss's Birthday-Palooza,

Saturday, March 2, 2019, 12-2pm

There's a fox in socks and hops on Pops. Meet Cats in hats and turtles named Yertle. Eat ham with Sam. Find wockets in pockets and Horton's Who's. Maybe you can even run the zoo? Anything is possible on the best birthday of them all!

Join us at the Forest Park Library as we celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday with crafts, games, a scavenger hunt, a birthday cake, and the induction of our branch's Seussville collection. At 1pm join Lunch Bunch for a reading of a Dr. Seuss story and a light lunch.

#### Vintage Vinyl Record Collecting,

Thursday, March 21, 5:30-6:30pm

What was old is new again

Vinyl record collecting is enjoying a resurgence as evidenced by record collecting conventions worldwide and locally in Springfield. Come learn about record collecting from

local expert Giovanni Zuniga, proprietor of Springfield's Spin That Records. Find out what to look for when collecting records, interesting facts around cover art and the artists who created the work, and more. For teens and adults.

### April

#### Lost Springfield: It's History in Photographs and Stories,

Thursday, April 4, 6:30-7:30pm

Join local history enthusiasts and take a walk down memory lane.

Derek Strahan, author of Lost Springfield, Massachusetts, will discuss the celebrated past of Springfield, including the Forest Park neighborhood. Mr. Strahan has also published the book New England Then and Now, and maintains a website dedicated to Lost New England

[www.lostnewengland.com](http://www.lostnewengland.com) . Ages 15 and up

Refreshments compliments of the Friends of the Library.

#### Meet Your Neighbors: Bhutanese Refugees from Nepal,

Saturday, April 27, 11:30am-

2:30pm. Come see local people performing Nepalese, Hindi and Indian influenced music and dancing, sharing stories and a fashion show of clothing from their culture. Also see an exhibit and sample food from Nepalese culture. Shyam, a musician from Worcester will perform at 12:30pm. This program is in collaboration with the Community Upliftment Program. Check out our website [www.springfieldlibrary.org](http://www.springfieldlibrary.org) or call 413-263-6843 for more details. For all ages. Families especially encouraged to come.

## UPCOMING FPCA MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted FPCA Monthly Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month, at Faith United Church, 52 Sumner Avenue, Springfield

**Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**FPCA Annual Meeting/ Pot Luck**  
**4pm – 6pm**

at the Holy Name Social Center  
52 Alderman Street, Springfield  
**Please bring a dish according to the first letter of your last**

**name:**

**A – H Dessert Main Dish**

**I – S Dessert**

**T – Z Appetizer**

**Tuesday, Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
FPCA Monthly Meeting – 7:00 pm  
Faith United Church, 52 Sumner Avenue, Springfield

**Tuesday, Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
FPCA Monthly Meeting – 7:00 pm  
Faith United Church, 52 Sumner Avenue, Springfield

**Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
FPCA Monthly Meeting – 7:00 pm  
Faith United Church, 52 Sumner Avenue, Springfield

***If you have Pictures, stories, articles and ideas you'd like to see in the next FPCA Newsletter, please send them to Beate Bolen at [beatebolen@gmail.com](mailto:beatebolen@gmail.com)***

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