



Summer 2026 Newsletter

Help Water New Neighborhood Trees!

Forty-five new trees donated by FPCA planted throughout Forest Park Neighborhoods in May

By Carolyn Robbins

The Forest Park Civic Association is speaking up for the trees by urging its members to pitch in to water the 45 new trees planted throughout the neighborhood this spring.

Elise Morse-Gagnon and fellow-FPCA member Beate Bolen have been serving as liaisons between the Civic Association and the City's Forestry Department on the \$9,000 grant-funded project this year. And they say regular watering of the trees in the spring and summer months is critical.

"Ideally homeowners could water the trees in front of their own properties," Morse-Gagnon, said, "but, in some cases this is not possible, or not possible throughout the summer," adding that the trees' watering bags need to be filled weekly with 15 gallons of water through an opening on the outside of the bag.

The city's Forestry Department, which is understaffed, is doing its best to keep the trees watered each week, but FPCA leaders Phil and Liz Contant say the crew needs help from residents – especially during the summer.

"Watering new trees during the first two years is critically important to their survival," Phil Contant said. "We urge everyone who lives near newly planted trees, and who is able to do so, to try and keep these water bags full."

In the meantime, Morse-Gagnon came up with a way she could help out. "I rigged up a rather funny, but reasonably effective, way of getting water to the trees beyond a hose's reach," she said. It involves an empty cat-litter jug and a duct-taped cranberry juice bottle, which allows her to water two to three trees in about half an hour to 40 minutes. *See photo on right.*

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ABOUT US

Forest Park is the largest neighborhood in Springfield with over 26,000 residents, 7 public schools (Beal, Kensington, Washington, White Street, Sumner Avenue, Forest Park Middle School, Springfield High School), an active public library, the largest public park in Springfield, a golf course, and many diverse residents, churches, businesses, and non-profit organizations.

The FPCA is the oldest civic association in the city (1964), dedicated to improving and maintaining the quality of life and celebrating the history and cultures of Forest Park residents.

Membership in the FPCA is open to any resident and/or business in Forest Park. Email us or visit our website for more information. All are welcome!

We are thankful for your support and involvement!

Find us online:

www.ForestParkCivic.org

<https://www.facebook.com/forestparkcivicassoc>

<https://www.instagram.com/fpca01108/>

Email us at:
forestparkcivicassociation@gmail.com

FPCA Board & Committee Members for 2026-2027

Officers:

Co-Presidents	Hope Lewis, Kathy Post
Vice-President	Keir White
Secretary-Clerk	Susan Joel
Treasurer	Beate Bolen

Standing Committees:

Community Improvement	Christine Agnitti, Steve Cary, Victor Davila, Elise Morse-Gagne
Distribution	Bill McNamara, Linda Scudellari
Education & Library	Jackie Pleet, Keir White
Finance	Beate Bolen, Don Evans, Hope Lewis, Paul Martin, Kathy Post
Historical	Nathan Andary, Deborah Shea, Erica Swallow, Gary White
Hospitality	Liz Contant, Kathy McNamara
Membership	Kristen Condon, Phil Contant, Mary Johnson, Ruth Mahoney
Neighborhood Business Liaison	Mary Johnson
Newsletter	Nathan Andary, Kathy Post, Carolyn Robbins
Parks	Liz Bramson, Phil Contant, Tom Moriarty
Program	Phil Contant, Jackie Pleet
Public Safety	Juanita Batchelor, Amy Gustman, Wayne Nelson, Sandra Vella
Zoning	Jane Hetzel
At-Large	Bill Malloy, Jodi-Lyn Manning, Pat Triggs

Ad Hoc Committees:

Historian/Archivist	Pat Triggs
Website/Facebook	Beate Bolen, Steve Cary, Jodi-Lyn Manning, Kathy Post

Monthly Meetings

Second Tuesday of each month, 6:30-8:30 pm at the John J. Shea Bright Nights Building in Forest Park

- No meetings in July and August
- Meetings will resume on Sept 8, 2026

From the FPCA Co-Presidents

This has been a busy spring and summer for the FPCA. We elected a new slate of Officers and Board Members at our Annual Meeting in March (see list on right), and continued our efforts to plan several programs and utilize the remaining funds from our Neighborhood Council Stabilization Grant. Here are the highlights of how we have invested in the FPCA and in our community in 2026:

- Purchase and planting of 45 new trees throughout the Forest Park neighborhood, which will soon be marked with small tags identifying our sponsorship.
- Forest Park Library now has a new popcorn machine to provide snacks for kids (and adults) attending programs and events at the library.
- Soil, pots, seeds, paint, brushes and other supplies for a Victory Garden container gardening event at the Farmers Market at Forest Park, co-sponsored by the Armory/National Park Service and Western Mass Master Gardener Association on Tuesday, August 4.
- Grants for neighborhood schools to carry out events and activities, including the One School One Book program at White Street School, a therapeutic bubble machine at Washington Elementary School, and experiential field trips for students at Springfield High School.
- Supplies for the Darrell Lee Jenkins Jr Resource Center's (DLJRC) Healing the Block events, including gloves, grabbers, trash bags, and water for participants to clean up five neighborhood streets and small parks.
- Laptops, chairs, printer, and paper to support after-school educational activities at the DLJRC on Dickinson Street.
- Street sign toppers to identify those streets located within the Forest Park Heights Historic District, to be installed by the Springfield Department of Public Works later this summer.
- Technology and equipment to enhance in-person and remote participation at FPCA meetings and events, including a portable audio system and a video conferencing system.
- Further updating of the FPCA website at www.forestparkcivic.org

We greatly appreciate the funding provided through the City of Springfield's Neighborhood Council Stabilization Grant Program over the past two years. We look forward to continuing our outreach to all of Forest Park!

Enjoy your summer! Hope Lewis & Kathy Post, Co-Presidents

Watering New Trees *(continued from page 1)*

Long-term, the FPCA is hoping to get a nonprofit group like the Boy Scouts involved in watering the trees – not just in Forest Park, but throughout the whole city.



The Civic Association has ordered tags to tie to the new trees' branches, identifying FPCA as the donor with the message "Enjoy the Shade!" and the phrase "Planting Trees, Growing Community" in English and Spanish.

Gagnon had high-praise for Sherman, noting that he "provided advice on tree types. He also ordered and delivered them and checked with DIGSafe and utilities to be sure that every tree went into a safe and appropriate location," she said. "The city forestry crew planted the trees, positioning shade trees, where possible," with some volunteer assistance from FPCA members.

The 45 new trees in the Forest Park neighborhood include trees commonly known as serviceberry, river birch, flowering crabapple, disease-resistant elms, and swamp white oak. The varieties now grace the tree belts on Bellevue, Euclid and Kensington Avenues and on Dickinson, Itendale, Meredith, Oakland, Shawmut, and Washington Streets.

On left: Drawing of new tree by Meredith Street resident Sheila McElwaine.

Forest Park Swan Boats Available for Weekend Rentals Through End of September

The Springfield Parks Department was pleased to announce the return of the Swan Boats to Porter Lake in Forest Park for rent on Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, with the last rental at 5:30 pm. The rate is \$5.00 per boat for 30 minutes, cash only, available on a first-come, first-served basis. Lifeguards will be on duty.

Rules and regulations include:

- Flotation devices are required for all passengers.
- No swimming allowed.
- Passengers under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.
- At least one passenger must be 56" (4'8") tall.
- Maximum of four passengers per boat.
- Passengers must remain seated at all times.
- Footwear is required.
- Keep hands and feet inside the boat at all times.



VISIT YOUR FOREST PARK BRANCH LIBRARY!

Forest Park Library Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1-5

Tuesday 10-5

Thursday 1-8

Saturday 11-3

Closed Sunday

380 Oakland Street
413-263-6843



For upcoming events, go to the Springfield City Library's calendar page at <https://springfield.librarycalendar.com/events/upcoming> For a more detailed calendar of the events happening at the Forest Park Library branch, be sure to visit the library each month for a paper copy.

The Forest Park Library is once again collecting disposable diapers for distribution to families in need. Please drop off packages of diapers at the library's front desk during regular hours. Most needed: Size 2.

FARMERS MARKET @ FOREST PARK UPDATE

Visit our website at <https://farmersmarketforestpark.com/>

The Farmers Market at Forest Park is really cooking this summer! Join us on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 6:00 pm behind Cyr Arena. Park admission is free if you're headed to the market, from either the main entrance or Trafton Road.

Every week, we are the destination for produce, dairy, baked goods, crafts, specialty food items, spirits, prepared/hot food, and community resource information. Your local farmers market is a great way to support local businesses while visiting with friends and neighbors. SNAP and HIP accepted for most food items.



Free Planting Workshop for children and youth on Tuesday, August 4, sponsored by the Forest Park Civic Association and coordinated by the Springfield Armory/National Park Service and the Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association. Come decorate a clay pot, learn how to plant seeds, and take home your own mint plant with instructions on how to nurture your crop!

For updates and vendor schedules, follow us on social media:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/farmersmarketatforestpark>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/farmersmarketatforestpark/>
- Next Door: <https://nextdoor.com/page/the-farmers-market-at-forest-park-springfield-ma>

TREE SUMMARY TABLE

NUMBER	REMARKS	DATE	PERFORMER	STATUS
1	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
2	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
3	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
4	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
5	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
6	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
7	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
8	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
9	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
10	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
11	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
12	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
13	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
14	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
15	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
16	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
17	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
18	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
19	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
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21	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
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95	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
96	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
97	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
98	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
99	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed
100	Tree removed	10/1/19	DPW	Completed

UPDATE ON THE ‘X’ RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

By Carolyn Robbins

The \$26 million road reconstruction project at the X won’t be completed until 2030, but part of the complicated plan to reconfigure the busy thoroughfare has reached a stage where motorists and pedestrians can begin to visualize what it will look like when it’s finished.

A crew from the state Department of Transportation is now stationed at the entrance of Forest Park, widening the road to accommodate a bicycle lane, installing a new sidewalk and protecting the trees abutting the park.

On April 6, 50 neighborhood residents attended a presentation by Department of Works Director Christopher Cignoli, who said workers have made a good start on Sumner Avenue near the entrance to Forest Park, adding that segment will be completed by the middle of the summer.

“The road will be paved with a first layer of asphalt to make traveling much smoother,” he said, adding that the focus will be on the installation of new water mains and drainage on Dickinson Street and Belmont Avenue since the major underground work on Sumner Avenue is finishing.

“There will be some directional changes at the X under the plan,” Cignoli said. “Belmont Avenue will become one-way from Sumner Avenue to Burlington Street, and Belmont will be one-way from Sumner to Commonwealth Avenues. Ormond Street, which connects Belmont to Sumner, will also become a one-way section.

Through the end of the summer, the construction will include roadway excavations on Sumner Avenue and on Dickinson Street and Ormond Street,

In response to residents’ questions about how planned traffic islands would be maintained and kept clean, Cignoli said the city will install better designed refuse barrels, adding that the maintenance will be shared by the Park Department and the DPW.

Cignoli warned residents that there will be water shutdowns, mostly lasting a few hours, adding that there may be some nighttime work in the upcoming weeks. Flyers will be placed on residents’ doors before shutdowns occur, he said.

Construction schedule and updates can be found at the department of transportation website at www.mass.gov/the-x-springfield. You can also sign up to receive email notices and updates from the website.

National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4

National Night Out (NNO) began over 40 years ago to promote police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie, and safer living environments through neighborhood gatherings. With block parties, cookouts, police vehicle displays, live music, and family-friendly youth activities, the goal has been to enhance relationships between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. The Springfield Police Department has been organizing NNO events in its many neighborhoods for about 15 years, and this year is no exception.

The Springfield Elks Lodge 61, 440 Tiffany Street, is once again hosting the Forest Park National Night Out event at its Pavilion on Tuesday, August 4 from 5 to 7 pm.

The Forest Park Civic Association will be one of many organizations attending, with a table to provide information, welcome new and current members, and share neighborhood news. Bring the family and enjoy free food, live music, safety vehicle tours, and more!

Springfield Celebrates National Night Out 2026			
Tuesday, August 4, 2026			
City View Commons	3:00-5:00	26 Federal Court	
Mason Square Apartments	3:00-5:00	837 State Street	
Outing Park Apartment	3:00-5:00	37 Saratoga Street	
Old Hill, Upper Hill...	3:30-7:00	Sam Bolden Park	
Pine Point/ Colonial Estates	4:00-6:00	Nahorniak Park	
Allen Park	5:00-9:00	251 Allen Park Road	
Lower Liberty	5:00-7:00	Emily Bill Park	
Forest Park	5:00-7:00	440 Tiffany St	
Indian Orchard	5:30-8:00	Myrtle St. Park	
Tuesday, August 11, 2026			
East Springfield	5:30-7:00	Marshall Roy Park	
Tuesday, August 18, 2026			
Northend	5:30-7:30	Keneffick Park	
Sixteen Acres	5:30-7:30	Greenleaf Park	
Tuesday, September 15, 2026			
East Forest Park	5:30-7:30	Nathan Bill Park	
National Night Out is an Annual Community-Building Campaign that promotes Police-Community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer and Springfield residents closer. Join Us for free family fun!			

Public Safety Information

- Sector H Beat Management team meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6 pm, usually at Sinai Temple, 1100 Dickinson Street.
- Forest Park C3 weekly meetings are held every Monday at 10 am at Calvary's Love Church, 17-19 Oakland Street.

Come meet your police officers, ask questions, and share any concerns about neighborhood issues.

Follow the Springfield Police Department on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldPoliceDeptMA/>

Finding solutions to Quality-of-Life issues in our neighborhood

The Springfield Police Department's **Good Neighbor Handbook** lists city ordinances and who to contact for help. Download from here, in English or Spanish:

<https://www.springfield-ma.gov/police/resources/good-neighbor-handbook>

The FPCA has copies of the handbook in English and Spanish at all our meetings and events.

Come get yours!

Join FPCA Members and Neighbors at

Music in the Park at the Forest Park Amphitheater – Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 pm

- July 9: Dee Reilly
- July 30: The Petty Larceny Band
- August 6: Skynyrd's Hatchet
- August 13: Zac N' Fried
- August 20: Jake Manzi
- August 27: Unforgettable Fire
- September 3: Bennie and the Jets
- September 10: Floyd Patterson Band

Democracy Starts Here:

First District Congressional Forum

and Community Conversations



Tuesday, August 11, 2026

5:00 - 8:00 pm



52 Sumner

52 Sumner Ave, Springfield

*Prepare for Election Day
at the First District Congressional Forum!*

Find out what candidates have in mind for Western/Central Mass.

Come hear candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives seat for the First Congressional District of Massachusetts discuss their goals for our district. Meet candidates and see them in action in a Q&A style format. Plus, connect with community organizations and make sure you're registered to vote!

5:00 pm: Community Conversations

Meet-and-greet candidates, check your voter registration status, and connect with community organizations.

6:00 pm: Socialize & Take Your Seats

Make your way inside, say hello to friends and neighbors, and find a good seat.

6:30-8:00 pm: Candidate Q&A

See the candidates in action during Q&A, moderated by G. Michael Dobbs



RSVP Online: bit.ly/1stDistrictForum

Submit Questions: bit.ly/SubmitQA

This forum is brought to you by 40+ local nonprofits, neighborhood councils, and community organizations



Forest Park Civic Association
P.O. Box 80708
Springfield, MA 01138-0708

Don't Forget to Vote!

State Primary Day: Tuesday, September 1

Election Day: Tuesday, November 3

Go to <https://www.springfield-ma.gov/elections/> for information about registering to vote, voting early/by absentee ballot/by mail, and to check your voter status.

Deadline to register to vote is 10 days before the election

Polls will be open 7 am to 8 pm

Precinct polling places for Forest Park Neighborhood residents:

Ward & Precinct	Location
3E	Elias Brookings School, 433 Walnut Street
3F, 3G, 3H	Holy Name Church Social Center, 323 Dickinson Street
6A, 6B	Forest Park Middle School Gym, 46 Oakland Street (Garfield St entrance)
6C	Barney Lane Apartments, Barney Lane (off Trafton Road)
6D, 6D1, 6F	Alice Beal School, 285 Tiffany Street
6E	Holy Name Church Social Center, 323 Dickinson Street
6G, 6H	MLK Charter School, 285 Dorset Street
7A	Mary Dryden School, 190 Surrey Road