



forest Acres Neighborhood Association
www.FANeighbors.org

FOREST ACRES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Meeting: October 26, 2010

St. Michael and All Angels' Episcopal Church (Sturtevant Hall)

MEETING MINUTES

I. WELCOME (Brian Thomas, President)

President Brian Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and recognized Father Paul Stricklin with appreciation for making meeting space available. Mr. Thomas also recognized USC graduate student Eleanor Stein, who will be working on a research project focused on the Forest Acres community.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Good Neighbor Award

Mr. Thomas presented Barbara Testor with the inaugural "Good Neighbor" award. When Ms. Testor awoke to find the area around the Satchelford ballpark toilet papered, she spent a couple of hours with a ladder removing all the paper from the trees and the grounds so that the perpetrators would not be able to admire their handiwork!

B. Membership

Mr. Thomas reminded everyone that the new membership year started September 1. Membership dues are a very reasonable \$5 per household, and there is also a business membership category, with several levels available. Membership information can be found online at <http://www.faneighbors.org/membership.html>.

C. Calendar Announcements

Mr. Thomas reminded everyone of the following upcoming events:

- [Election Day](#)
Next Tuesday, November 2. Visit the [Richland County Election Commission](#) to find your polling place and learn about absentee voting and more. Visit the State election Commission to [check your voter registration information](#), see a [list of candidates](#) by office, [review the Constitutional Amendment Questions](#), [learn how to use the touch screen voting system](#) and more.
- [Rockbridge Bazaar](#)
Sunday November 7 (1-6 PM)
Rockbridge Club
- [Bubbie's Brisket Bake Off](#)
Sunday, November 14 (11 AM – 4 PM)
Beth Shalom Synagogue
- **NEXT NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**
Tuesday, January 18 (7 PM)
St. Michael & All Angels' Episcopal Church (Sturtevant Hall)

III. PARTNER/BUSINESS SPOTLIGHTS

A. [Four Paws Animal Clinic](#) – Tracy Wales, DVM

Located at 23 Forest Lake Place in Forest Acres (behind Zoe's and Carolina First on Forest Drive), Four Paws Animal Clinic is committed to providing exceptional healthcare for pets and helping the people who love them make informed decisions regarding their health. [Drs. Tracy Wales and Nori Warren](#) offer the following services: Behavior Counseling, Blood work, Dental care and surgery, Critical & emergency care, geriatric counseling & care, cremation, pharmacy, immunizations, microchipping, nutritional counseling, pain management, radiology, surgery and wellness examinations.

Brian Thomas awarded Four Paws Animal Clinic a *Good Neighbor Award* for going above and beyond the call of duty in helping to reunite Forest Acres pets with their families over the last couple of months.

B. [Richland Mall Farmers Market](#) – Bill Walkup & Jerry Viles

Richland Mall owner Bill Walkup introduced Jerry Viles, owner of the new & permanent Richland Mall Farmers Market on the rooftop of Richland Mall. The market, open Monday – Saturdays, offers bedding plants, cut flowers & produce. Mr. Viles invited neighbors to take and sample some of his fresh produce, which he graciously gave away at the front door.

C. [OH Salon!](#) – Kiah Creed

Owner/Stylist Kiah Creed introduced his partner owner/stylist Christine Pizarro and invited neighbors to stop in to see their new salon. Located at 4517 Forest Drive, the salon specializes in only hair (OH!). Stop in to visit and make an appointment to be beautiful!

On Sunday, November 14, 2010 Oh! Salon will be hosting a cut-a-thon to support research and treatment for juvenile diabetes. All haircuts will be \$25.00 and all proceeds will be donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Walk-ins are welcome and preferred, however appointments will be made when requested. If an appointment is scheduled, please allow your stylist a few extra minutes due to the nature of the event.

III. FEATURED TOPICS/SPEAKERS

A. [The Transportation Penny](#) – Roxanne Matthews Ancheta (Richland County)

Roxanne Ancheta with the Richland County Administrator's Office provided an overview of the proposed Penny for Transportation Sales Tax.

- On November 2, 2010 Richland County voters will have the opportunity to vote yes or no for the Transportation Penny Sales Tax.
- If approved by voters, the transportation penny would be used to complete more than a billion dollars worth of major road, bike and pedestrian greenway projects, plus provide long-term sustainable funding for our bus service and transportation services for the community's disabled.
- The Transportation Penny is on the ballot because county residents asked Richland County to find solutions that would help improve roads; make it safer to walk and ride bicycles; and provide long term funding of the bus service.
- Richland County Council voted to place the transportation penny on the ballot after a great deal of deliberation and study, which began back in 2006 when it established a 39-member citizen-led Transportation Study Commission. The Commission held public input meetings and completed a comprehensive study which addressed failing roads, the lack of sidewalks and greenway infrastructure. During these public meetings citizens said they also wanted an improved bus service. The council also sought the input of other area elected officials.

- **The Transportation Penny would increase sales tax in Richland County to eight cents on all retail sales** with the funds going to improve roads, support the bus system and increase bike/pedestrian greenways.
- It is estimated that approximately 30% of the transportation penny would be paid by non-county residents.
- The twenty-five year transportation vision includes enhanced road systems, safe bike paths and walking trails for our children and families, and a more efficient bus service.

25 Year Proposed Projects & Cost Overview:

Mode	Cost	Percentage
Bike/Pedestrian/Greenway	\$58,482,394	6%
Bus Service (Transit)	\$337,117,605	33%
Roadway	\$627,400,000	61%
Total	\$1,022,999,999	100%

- The Transportation Penny would be the principle source of funding for the transportation needs of our community for years to come. The proposed projects chosen will impact the transportation needs throughout the entire county.
- Throughout the length of the Transportation Penny, citizens will know exactly how the proceeds from the tax will be spent via an interactive web site and continuous public information updates. If approved by voters, County Council will appoint a citizen-oversight panel to oversee the projects.
- A [proposed projects list](#) is currently available on the county’s website.
- By way of follow up to several questions, Ms. Ancheta will provide a list of proposed projects specific to District 8, which will be posted on our website.
- There will be two questions related to the Transportation Penny on the November Ballot.
 - The first asks voters to approve the Transportation Penny.
 - The second asks voters to approve the issuance of bonds to accelerate the work funded by the Transportation Penny.

[See the Ballot Questions](#)

RELATED READING LINKS:

[Review the Presentation](#)

[Facts](#)

[CMRTA](#)

[Comprehensive Study Project](#)

[Proposed Projects](#)

[Proposed Project Maps](#)

[History & Tech Memos](#)

[Exemptions](#)

[Ballot Questions](#)

B. Safety & Crime Update – Sgt. Lori Tumlin & Lt. Bryant Hinson, Forest Acres Police Department;
Deputy Kevin Stegall, Richland County Sheriff's Department
Detective Matt Ellis, Richland County Sheriff's Department

- The number of burglaries has drastically reduced since the arrests earlier in the month. Recent incidents reported:
 - St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church (6408 Bridgewood Road)
 - 3800 block of Verner Street. (Home had an alarm, which was disabled)
 - McArthur Street
- Items stolen include mainly laptops & other electronic equipment, as well as cash.
- Car break-ins continue to occur, with stolen items including mobile phones, GPS, and other electronic devices. These crimes are hard to solve, so please protect yourself by taking everything out of your cars (including chargers & loose change) and locking the doors.
- Solicitations seemed to have increased. If peddling anything other than religion, they must have registered and have a permit. **DO NOT HESITATE** to call the police when you see these folks on your street. (They could be casing homes.)
- Neighbors were reminded to keep shrubbery cut back for crime prevention. It should be no higher than 6" from the bottom of windows and at least 2" from walkways.
- Interrogation of the burglary suspects revealed what typically will cause them to avoid a home:
 - Alarm Stickers
 - Closed Blinds (Can't see items of interest)
 - Closed Garage (Don't know if car /person is there)
 - Fenced in back yards (Prevents escape route)
- There have been several commercial burglaries over the last 2 weeks. However, there is a warrant out for a suspect in those cases.
- Numbers to know:
 - **Forest Acres Police Department (dispatch):** 782-9444
 - **Richland County Sheriff's Office:** 576-3000
 - **Deputy Stegall, RCSD CAT Team:** 518-9781
 - **City of Columbia Police Department:** 252-2911
 - **CALL 911 for any act in progress!**

IV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM

NEXT MEETING: January 18, 2011 – 7 PM

St. Michael and All Angels' Episcopal Church (Sturtevant Hall)

Connect with us (FANeighbors) on . . .

