



Strawberry Farms Civic Association

THE CIVIC CHATTER

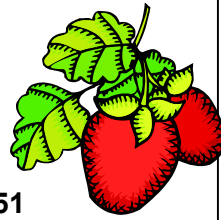
Spring 2014 Issue

E-mail: president@strawberryfarms.org

Website: www.strawberryfarms.org

Facebook: Strawberry Farms

Mail: PO Box 1251, Westerville, OH 43086-7251



SFCA 2014 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Tina Morris
tinamz54@gmail.com

Treasurer: Anita Absalom
treasurer@strawberryfarms.org

Dir. Membership: Anita Absalom
amabsalom@yahoo.com

Dir. Neighborhood Safety
Theresa VanDavis
sfblockwatch@hotmail.com

Dir. Landscaping: Patty Fitzgerald
pjfitz3@wowway.com

Newsletter Editor: Alice Hohl
alice@siteinsightnow.com

Dir. of Newsletter Distribution:
Mike Hillberry (Welcome new member!)

Dir. of Advertising: Tim Madrid
timothymadrid@gmail.com

Webmaster: Alice Hohl
alice@siteinsightnow.com

Looking for Volunteers:
Vice-President
Secretary

Let's Bring Pride Back Into Our Community!

Submitted by Tina Morris, President

Well, Spring is finally here and so is the opportunity to spruce up our property! I know these are some difficult times for many, but I feel it is important to at least keep our properties tidy and clean to encourage rising home values for all residents. There are many city codes that we should adhere to. These code violations are reported most: garbage in yards, trash cans left out at the curb past the 24-hour period allowed, cars parking across sidewalks forcing people (children) out in the street to walk around them, bulk-pickup trash items left by the curb or up against houses, weekly newspapers scattered all over the street and yards, and people not cleaning up after their dogs or unleashed dogs running freely through people's yards. Please call the 311 Call Center (614-645-3111) to report code violations. Things will not change unless we do something about these issues.

So let's each commit to getting out and cleaning up our yards when the warm weather arrives! If we all did that, what a nice place SF would be! If you are elderly or sick and need help, email me (tinamz54@gmail.com) and we find people to help you. ☺ We want people to drive into Strawberry Farms and see it as a place they would like to live. I have lived here since 1987 and am sad to see the decline of properties and homes. They only people to change that is us. It is our community. Let's bring back the pride that was once here!

As we increase our membership and participation in the Civic Association, we can do more as a community to improve our neighborhood. Funding for upkeep of the speed treatments and neighborhood entrances is just one example. Please check and make sure you have paid your membership dues this year, and then encourage just one neighbor to do the same. Working together, we can restore Strawberry Farms to its glory days, and this will benefit us all as our homes and landscaping increase in beauty and value!

The Board members have donated material and money to help keep up the community landscaping because we feel it is important that our neighborhood looks attractive to people as they drive in. A simple and inexpensive way you can help is to become a member. It's a mere \$15 per year! Your money will help us buy much-needed mulch and plants for our main 161 entrance to help replace what has been destroyed from people driving over the median.

You can be kept informed of what is happening here in SF by visiting our website: Strawberryfarms.org, liking us on Facebook: Strawberry Farms, and by giving us your email address so important notices come right to you! You can do that through the website when you fill out your membership application.

We also want everyone to become BlockWatch "buddies." Looking out for your neighbors is a great start. My neighbors and I watch out for each other's homes when one of us is away. Remind your neighbors to leave their porch lights on or let them know if they leave their garage doors open. Be aware of your surroundings. It is an easy thing to do and deters the "bad guys."

So let's start fresh this Spring with an attitude of pride for our community!!

We are reinstating our Beautification Awards this July! There will be one winner and 2 honorable.



Thank you to resident Mike Liston for mowing the grass at the entrance and around the red fence with the sign to our neighborhood at Sunbury Road. Mike is looking for some help—perhaps another neighbor to rotate the responsibility. To volunteer to help mow at Magnolia Blossom and Sunbury Road, please contact Tina Morris, SFCA President. (See Contact Information Section.)

Thank you so much to Linda Pierce, a resident and member who won a \$100 gift card in a drawing for new members during a membership drive this winter. Linda donated her gift card back to

Update on Church Property

The Easton Worship Center on the corner of Strawberry Farms Boulevard and Forest Edge needs to sell their property for financial reasons. At first, the potential buyer wanted to build a retail shopping center, possibly with apartments above, on the site. We, as a civic association and a community, were not in favor of that, as we did not have any idea what kind of businesses were going to be moving in, and they did not have any plans or drawings to show us.

After meeting with a representative for the potential buyer, they rethought their plans and eventually presented an upscale apartment complex with a clubhouse and pool. Representatives for both the civic association and the potential buyer worked together to make sure the development does the least amount of harm to the neighborhood.

Of course, we all wish the property would remain a nice church on a wooded lot, but the church has a right to sell the property to whomever they wish. All we can do is work within the zoning process to try to keep the land use in line with the neighborhood's character.

Latest Action

The Civic Association and its Zoning Committee voted to recommend in favor of the plans after requesting and receiving a number of changes to the plans, such as preserving the trees along 161, increasing the landscaping buffer between the apartments and existing homes on Forest Edge and Trillium Court, and guaranteeing attractive signage and ample lighting.

The Northland Community Council (NCC) then reviewed the plans at their January meeting and listened to comments from the developer, our civic association, and neighbors near the proposed development. The NCC, which is a regional group that helps the Columbus City Council understand the desires of local neighborhoods, recommended in favor of the development and the requested zoning change.

In February, the Zoning Commission of the City of Columbus also recommended in favor. The last step will be for the City Council to approve the zoning change.

The company seeking to buy the land is doing its best to be a good neighbor. Having worked with them in good faith, we have been able to shape the proposed development to fit into our neighborhood.



Safety in Strawberry Farms

- 1) Please sign up to participate in Walking Patrols around our neighborhood. Sign up and find out more at <http://www.strawberryfarms.org/patrol>.
- 2) Please report crime to the police when you see it. It's great that people are sharing concerns on Facebook, but it's also important to contact the police so that our neighborhood will receive the attention it deserves from the Columbus Police Department.
- 3) Personal Safety Training: In cooperation with the Columbus Police Department, Strawberry Farms is offering a Personal Safety Training Course. Date and time are TBA, but please sign up to be notified!



Welcome Officer David Harp!



Our CPD Liaison Officer
Ohio Division of Police Strategic
Response Bureau
614-645-1406
dharp@columbuspolice.org

Annual Membership Drive

By: Anita Absalom, Director of Membership



It's that time again! The Strawberry Farms Civic Association is beginning its annual membership drive and we need your help! Strawberry Farms is a large community (with over 900 houses!). If just half of the homeowners joined the association, we would have nearly 10 times the membership and resources that we have now! Your participation is vital to our association to maintain and improve our neighborhood and make it a safer place to live!

Would you please consider joining us?

For a mere \$1.25 a month (\$15.00 annually) you and your family can become members of the Strawberry Farms Civic Association. **All members of the 2014 association (new and renewal members) will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Visa gift card! The drawing will be held at the end of the year.**

Please complete the membership form below **TODAY** and mail to:
SFCA PO Box 1251, Westerville, OH 43086-7251

OR

Register and pay online: <http://www.strawberrymfarms.org/online-membership-application/>

Thank you for your participation and for being a valued neighbor of our community!



STRAWBERRY FARMS CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP 2014 Membership Year (January 1 – December 31)



Please check one: Renewal New Member Newsletter only Paid by: Check Cash

Name: _____

Spouse/Other: _____

Street Address: _____

Phone: _____

Annual fee is only \$15. That is a mere \$1.25 per month to be part of maintaining and improving our neighborhood! So please join us!!

Email: _____

Email address is REQUIRED for Newsletter Distribution and for SFCA communication only.

Please make your check payable to SFCA & mail to: SFCA PO Box 1251, Westerville, OH 43086-7251

Interested in Volunteering?

- Block Watch (All Strawberry Farms homeowners are automatically a member of the Blockwatch Committee!)**
- Adopt a Speed Treatment**
- Landscaping—weeding, mulching, mowing, etc.**
- Donate Landscaping Materials**
- Board Member**
- Social Activities**
- Other donations of choice: _____**



Strawberry Farms Garage Sale May 17th



Join us for our community garage sale on Saturday, May 17! (May 18 is the rain day.) Host your own garage sale at your house, and benefit from the increased traffic when your neighbors have their garage sale the same day! The Civic Association sponsors a newspaper ad to help promote all the neighborhood garage sales!

Put a balloon on your mailbox!



City Contact Numbers

Police.....	645-4545	Fire.....	221-2345
Water Service.....	645-7788	Sewer/Drains.....	645-7102
Electricity.....	645-7627	Loose animals.....	462-3400
Bulk pick-up.....	645-8774	Weeds/Environment.....	645-9139
Code enforcement.....	645-8139	Parking violations.....	645-6400
Junk cars/private.....	645-8139	Junk cars/public.....	645-2277

Mayor's action line.....645-2489 or 311

SFCA Liaison/Dick Graham.....645-7371 regraham@columbus.gov

Advertise!

Please support our advertisers who so generously support the newsletter.



It's inexpensive and effective to advertise with Strawberry Farms! Your ad will be hand-distributed in our newsletter to the 900+ homes in our community. Also you can choose to be featured in an ad on our website! Ads start at just \$15! Contact Tim Madrid or go to our website at StrawberryFarms.org.

2014 Saturday Landscape Clean-Up Dates

(Every 3rd Saturday, March-November)

- March 15th
- April 19th
- May 17th
- June 21th
- July 19th
- August 16th
- September 20st
- October 18th
- November 15th



The Civic Chatter was printed for the SFCA at a generous discount by your neighbor, Bill Reinhart!

Remember Bill for all your printing needs!

The Reinhart Printing Co.
 614-268-0181
 Email: reinhartprtgc@aol.com

Free Summer Camp at Strawberry Farms Park



4-Day Art & Play, hosted by Columbus Parks & Rec, is scheduled to take place at Strawberry Farms Park on June 9-12. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m., followed by free breakfast and special art and physical activities.

No pre-registration is required. Please visit the Columbus Parks & Rec website for more.

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