

**East Forest Park Civic Association
Minutes for March 11, 2009 Meeting**

Attendance (board members in bold): Richard & Darlene Acchione, JoAnne Cardell, George & Jan Cartier, Gary Danforth, Catherine Daniel, Ron & Martha Duquette, Matthew Ferri, Ray & Leona Gebo, Martha Hannon, Kim Hernandez, Sally Markey, Bob McCollum, Sgt. Ian McCollum, Darryl Moss, Shirley Nichols (Outer Belt Civic Association), Melissa Richter (Peoples Bank), **Frank Ryan**, Rich Samay, **Shawn Sheehan**, Richard Vear, **Ellen Walmer**, Seamus Warwick (Rep. Puppolo's Office), **Elaine Wright**

General Session: New Business

Co-President Shawn Sheehan called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

Seamus Warwick of Representative Puppolo's Office and Shirley Nichols of the Outer Belt Civic Association were introduced.

Shawn introduced Sgt. Ian McCollum, from the Hamden Co. Sheriff's Dept. who introduced the East Forest Crime Watch training which will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 7 - 8 PM in the Holy Cross School Meeting Room. He invited residents to set up these close neighborhood units in East Forest Park and this will send a message to those who want to commit crime that they are not going to imperil our part of the City.

Sgt. McCollum then introduced Ed Case also from the Sheriff's Dept. who gave a Power Point presentation which covered the history, rationale and key components of a successful Neighborhood Crime Watch. There was a brief overview of a few training skills such as accurate observation, recording, and reporting. Taking an active, civic role in working with Springfield law enforcement teams was urged. He stressed that alert, involved citizens reduce crime and increase public safety and that a partnership with vigilant community attitude empowers residents and is the best deterrent to today's serious problems.

Additional flyers were offered to those in attendance so they might invite their neighbors to these meetings and learn to form a Crime Watch on their streets.

Time was taken to discuss and prioritize our ten most urgent concerns to submit as our Top Ten Priorities to the Office of Economic Development and Planning. They are:

1. When weather permits fill in pot holes.
2. Improve road conditions in city especially on Plumtree Rd., Overlook Drive, Abbott Street, Harkness Ave.
3. Single Stream Recycling for all of East Forest Park.
4. Fix traffic congestion around General Edwards Bridge.
5. Enforce speeding on East Forest Park streets.
 - a. Speed trap on Sumner Avenue.
 - b. Allen Street and Sumner Avenue.
 - c. Surrey Road
6. Fix sidewalks.
7. Keep current traffic pattern on Overlook Drive.
8. Adopt traffic proposal around Frederick Harris School, 90 day trial one-way for Whittum Avenue from Allen Street to Plumtree Road.
9. Install sidewalks on the East Side of Eddywood Street by the corner of Allen Street.
10. Plow operators should stop piling snow on corners where there are sidewalks so residents can shovel and make accessible to pedestrians.

A discussion of a proposed parking lot at Cathedral High School along Surrey Road ensued. Questioned were such issues as:

- Necessity of 113 proposed parking spaces considering there is a huge parking lot in the back.
- Such an eyesore suggested to replace the present pleasant appearance.
- Why it was even presented in the Alumni Newsletter?
- The PR fallout that now precedes St. Michael's Academy opening.

- The impact it would have on the drainage system in that part of the City.

It was announced that Clean-Up Springfield will be held on Saturday, May 2.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.