

Forest Home Improvement Association

President's Annual Report

October 26, 2022

It has been a pleasure to serve as president of the Forest Home Improvement Association for the past year. When I was Town Supervisor, there were 3 or 4 active neighborhood groups. The others were for the most part single-issue groups, usually anti-something. When the issue was resolved one way or the other, the association disappeared. However, the FHIA has persevered for over 100 years (founded in 1914). I think the reasons for the success of the FHIA are that we are not only "anti," we are "pro," advocating for positive change in the neighborhood. In addition, many, many residents volunteer for activities. And, the Association promotes neighbor interaction. Those with big houses generously host holiday parties and many contribute to the annual picnic. In other words, the FHIA is a well-rounded group, with opportunities for the many varied interests of the residents.

The past year has been a productive one for the FHIA. Below are listed some of the activities.

Spring Roadside Cleanup

I wish I could claim credit for another highly successful cleanup, but Connie Stirling-Engman coordinated the effort, with a goodly number of volunteers covering every street in the neighborhood.

Improvement of the Path at Flatrocks

I wish I could claim credit for the incredible amount of work that improved the paths in both directions from the pedestrian bridge, but Charlie Trautmann recruited dozens of volunteers who repaired the damage from the winter ice jam. Charlie has also coordinated an Eagle Scout project to improve log steps near the bridge, rendering them much safer, especially for winter use. Charlie has also raised a boatload of funds to upgrade the pedestrian bridge in 2023. This guy should be elected to something so he can expand the use of his talents!

Monitoring of the RaNic Development

I wish I could claim credit for keeping track of this ever-changing project that may have significant impact on Forest Home, but Bruce Brittain has done the heavy lifting, watching the agendas of both the Town of Ithaca and the Village of Cayuga Heights and attending meetings remotely. Bruce has also pushed for the completion of the Credit Lane/Pleasant Grove intersection plan, which may divert some traffic from Forest Home.

Completion of the Forest Home Walkway Renovation

I wish I could claim credit for the wonderful new walkway, but Rod Howe, Town Supervisor, saw the project to completion and Caroline Arms kept us informed of its progress. Thanks also to the Town Highway Department for moving the stop sign and crosswalk at the intersection of Pleasant Grove and Forest Home Drive as part of the walkway improvement.

Annual Picnic

I wish I could claim credit for the super annual picnic, held for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. However, Connie Stirling-Engman coordinated a whole host of talented volunteers to serve at least 49 attendees on a beautiful fall day.

FHIA Web Site and Mailbox

I wish I had enough talent to upgrade the website, but that fell to Bill and Caroline Arms. It is a wonderful neighborhood resource – check it out! Connie Stirling-Engman checked the mailbox and sent important messages to the FHIA list with the backing of Caroline and FHIA Treasurer Valerie Hans.

Park Maintenance

I wish I could claim credit for the maintenance and improvement of the Forest Home Park, but Connie Stirling-Engman and Lee, Dana, Zoe, and Nadia , planted new plants and kept an eye on the flower box.

Forest Home Directory

I wish I could claim credit for the wonderfully useful directory, but the update was conducted by Caroline Arms via the dedicated street captains (see the directory for a list).

As you can see, a tremendous number of talented volunteers keep the FHIA humming along. Therefore, you should not hesitate to have your name submitted for an officer position or for the other tasks needed to maintain a friendly, helpful community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Herb Engman

President, Forest Home Improvement Association