



Catherine Wells

Resident of Glynn Road

Tell us about yourself

I was born in Dayton, Ohio. I received a BA degree in anthropology from Wright State University and an MA in anthropology from Ohio State University. When I moved to Cleveland in 1977, I took the opportunity to pursue a career in library & information science. I received an MSLS degree from Case Western Reserve University in 1981. I worked as a librarian at university Libraries at CWTU for 31 years, and rose to the position of assistant director for public services before retiring. I now hold a part-time position as the librarian at Holden Arboretum. I have volunteered for 15 years at Trinity Cathedral in the food mission and as an acolyte and a Eucharistic Minister. I also volunteered at Ten Thousand Villages until recently. I am an animal lover and dote on our 3 cats. I enjoy gardening and reading (love mysteries) and movies. I take several classes a year through the CWRU lifelong learning program. I enjoy a monthly book group and travel abroad when the budget allows.

How long have you lived in Forest Hill? Why did you move here?

We moved to our house on Glynn Rd. in 1990, because it was beautiful and very well constructed. It also had a double lot. We had looked at over 100 houses over several years with our patient realtor. She heard about this house just as it was listed, and we rushed over. We knew right away that this was the one. We knew about Forest Hill & its history; we were not strangers to its beauty and charm.

It was a short commute to our jobs at CWRU and CSU. We knew we were moving into East Cleveland, but things were not as bad then, and we had hope. Our street was lovely and our neighbors friendly.

We have hosted and helped plan several block parties. We love the mature trees and great variety of houses. Many people take great pride in maintaining their house and yards, and it is a pleasure to walk around most of the streets.

Why do you want to be a trustee?

When we bought our house we were told that Glynn Rd. was not officially part of FH. We have made many improvements to our home and yard over the years including maintaining our cedar shingle roof at great expense. We sporadically donated to FHHO but did not feel engaged or inspired by their efforts especially since Glynn Rd. was not included. Since the 2008 recession I began to be alarmed at the increased deterioration of our housing stock. It was obvious me that despite good intentions, the FHHO leadership was not willing or able to take action to stem the downward trend. in many cases they denied that this was a significant problem. The famous Aug. 14 meeting made me aware that there are many other residents who feel the same way. Also in the past year I have learned that those who have been running FHHO have not adhered to the 1950 Charter (Glynn Rd. is part of Forest Hill) nor run the organization in accordance with the bylaws.

What will be your neighborhood focus as a trustee?

I want the FHHO trustees to assume their rightful responsibilities as the guiding, policy making & decision making body for F.H. I want a fair & open election process engaging all FH residents. I want to follow thru with the by-law revisions. I want FHHO to become an IRS org. 501 (c) (3) so people can make tax deductible donations. We can then submit grant requests for funds. Just look how many other communities have done this - why not Forest Hill? I want to increase donations from residents and local businesses to fund hiring at least a part-time professional to assist in dealing with neglected properties I want to rigorously use all legal tools at our disposal to address the vacant/deteriorating houses. I want to publicize and market FH. as a desirable location. A strong active FHHO can make the changes that will make this true.