



The Falling Leaf

Sharing the Vision...

From Our President

Let me begin with a quick introduction. My name is Justin Walther and I was recently elected to serve on the HOA board as your president. Some of you may know me and my family but for those who don't, my wife and 4 kids and I live at 106 Pocono. We moved into the neighborhood a year ago. We chose the neighborhood first and then found a house because of all the wonderful things we knew about The Forest. My wife and I mention almost every day how happy we are to be living here. What makes our neighborhood so great? For me, it's the friendly waves from everyone as you walk down the street. It's the active involvement in the neighborhood events. It's the beautiful yards everyone keeps. But most of all,

it's the sense of community we have here in The Forest. This is our 4th house in Cary in the past 6 years and I can tell you first-hand that this neighborhood, more than any other we've lived in, feels like home.

I hope in the coming year to help continue that community feeling. My door is always open if you need to come discuss anything. Likewise, I hope you'll open your doors to your neighbors and help strengthen our neighborhood. I know it may sound sentimental but truly the relationships we have with each other are what makes The Forest unique. On behalf of your HOA board, have a happy summer!

Justin Walther
106 Pocono Lane
justin@walthernet.com

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Forest Events

Please call or check the web site at www.theforest.org for further information.

- ☺ June 12—Aug 18; Reach for the Stars Summer Reading Incentive Program; material pick up starting June 12, 2006. See article on page 3, or contact Amy Engler at 468-8085 or amysusbornebooks@nc.rr.com
- ☺ July 8—Walk-In Movie Night; See article on page 4, or contact Justin Walther at Justin@walthernet.com
- ☺ Ladies Night Out; event coordinated by Debra Schneider at 380-4463, 2-4 times each year; next event will be in the late summer
- ☺ Annual Picnic; this fun event occurs in early October for all neighbors
- ☺ Halloween Parade; event occurs during the last week of October for kids in elementary school
- ☺ Women's Holiday Cookie Exchange; event occurs in December each year for adult women
- ☺ Little Kids' Cookie Party; event occurs in December each year for pre-school children
- ☺ HOA Annual Meeting; event occurs each January for owners of homes in The Forest
- ☺ Annual Yard Sale; held in late March or early April
- ☺ Annual Egg hunt at the home of Tim and Cindy Bolden for children 3rd grade and younger

Neighborhood Changes— New Directory & Web-based Newsletter

Our Neighborhood Directory is published every other year, with 100 copies created and budgeted from our annual dues. Liisa Berger is once-again spearheading the effort and she intends an Early Summer paper distribution; the directory is also available on our new web site at www.theforest.org.

Please update your family information to include the following:

- ★ 1. Email address; this can be published in the directory or, should you so choose, be shared only with the newsletter committee

for the purpose of receiving future issues of *The Falling Leaf*, our neighborhood newsletter. The newsletter is converting to a web-based format and is available now at www.theforest.org. Circulation, in future, will be via the web for those who have elected to share their email address. Paper copies can be made available, by special request, for those with no web access. Please contact a member of the HOA Board to request your paper copy,

- 2. Last Name for the alphabetical listing,
- 3. Adult and child first

names,

- 4. Phone number(s),
- 5. Street address,
- 6. Anything special you'd like to note (such as businesses or clubs you operate from the home, children who pet-sit or child-sit, etc.).
- 6. ***Please let us know if you'd prefer to be left out of the Directory altogether.***

Forward your submissions to Liisa in one of the following 3 ways: (1) Drop it by her home, 211 Pocono, (2) Email it to her at liisapb@yahoo.com or (3) Call her at 481-0081.

NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT

The December 2005 announcement by Wake County Public School System Office of Growth Management (WCPSS OGM) to re-district our node of elementary school students from AV Baucom to Briarcliff was met with concern by most neighbors in The Forest, particularly since we have attended Baucom for more than 20 years. Our node quickly organized itself, solicited input, then researched and submitted a position paper requesting OGM allow the 72 children in question to remain at Baucom.

In February 2006, prior to a final decision from WCPSS, neighbors in our node received a pleasantly surprising invitation to an open house held on our behalf by Michael Regan, Principal of Briarcliff Elementary and Stacy Ingham, President of the Briarcliff PTA with the sole purpose of hearing our concerns and answering our questions. Those who attended were impressed with the school, its leadership and its focus on students. Several parents commented that they now hoped WE WOULD be moved, though families with older children "grandfathered" in to their last years at Baucom who are forced to make a decision to split siblings between two schools were still anxious about how the change will affect their family life.

Ultimately, the Office of Growth Management stood by its original proposal, and on March 21st, the Board of Education gave final approval the change to Briarcliff, after the public question & answer period and evaluation of county-wide needs had concluded.

Regan has made himself completely available to us throughout this transition. He is welcoming, friendly, professional and, justifiably, very proud of the accomplishments of his school and students. With 15 years of experience in the WCPSS and 2 years as a Principal, Regan brings energy and commitment to his task. On the softer side, it was amazing to watch the children respond to him in the hallways; a cacophony, if that's possible, of high-fives, hugs and other greetings were hurled his way, and in response, Regan met each salutation with a personal smile or comment, and he knew every child by name.

"I want to take this opportunity to personally welcome you to Briarcliff Elementary School," said Regan in a recent interview, "Briarcliff is truly a learning community where parents and teachers work together to ensure academic excellence for all students. We take

great pride in creating a safe and caring learning environment. In addition, we are committed to high expectations and meeting the needs of all students. I look forward to getting to know you and your children and working with you to ensure a smooth transition to Briarcliff. If you have any questions or concerns before the school year begins, please do not hesitate to call me at 460-3443."



There will be many advantages to attending Briarcliff including the smaller class sizes, the smaller overall school (Baucom has nearly 900 students, Briarcliff has less than 500), the shorter commute and less trafficked roads, no modular or mobile units, more wide-ranging activities for the kids including a Chess Club, a Drama Club and a beautifully diverse student body.

The Forest is unique in that our children attend so many different schools, from public to private, year-round and traditional, magnet and base. The majority, however slim, attend the Base Public Schools on the traditional calendar system.

Principal of Briarcliff
Elementary School in
Cary, Michael Regan.

REACH FOR THE STARS...

HELP THOSE WHO SERVE THE STARS & STRIPES

Summer is just around the corner, and it's time for the USBORNE REACH FOR THE STARS Program. This pledge based reading incentive program has been a hit with neighborhood families and encourages our children's good reading habits through the dog-days of summer. Kids commit to reading (or being read to!) throughout the summer, and collect pledges to support a particular cause.

This year, neighbors have chosen *The Fisher House* at Womack Army Medical Center on Fort Bragg. Because members of the military and their

families are stationed worldwide and must often travel great distances for specialized medical

care, Fisher House Foundation donates "comfort homes," built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the

most stressful times - during the hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease or injury.

With 100% of the pledges, *The Fisher House* will select books appropriate for their organization. As a reward for the effort of our children, Usborne gives the program participants books valued at 50% of what they collect in pledges. Historically, 30-35 children participate in this annual neighborhood program, donating \$1200 in books to our chosen charity.

Material Pick-Up for this year's program starts June 12, at 102 Mariposa. Packages are available in the blue bucket on the Engler's front stoop. Throughout the summer, the kids will read (or be read to!) for the time period to which they've committed. On Friday, August 18th (tentative), we'll celebrate with the culmination party which is ALWAYS a hit with the kids...who doesn't like free goodies and ice cream!??

Contact Amy Engler for more information; 468-8085.

6/12: Material Pick-Up Starts
 6/12-8/1: Read/Collect Pledges
 8/4-9: Book Selection
 8/18: PARTY PARTY!

Annual Real Estate Review

According to the public information available at the Wake County Register of Deeds Office, prices in **The Forest** went up, slightly, to \$102/SF in 2005 and activity more than doubled. Sales in the last 6 months, however, have averaged \$128/SF. The spike in the Cary market is consistent throughout this price range, and could be explained by consumer fear that interest rates are on the rise.

		10/07/05	104 Trailing Oak/2099 SF Sales Price: 223,000 Price per SF: \$106
		09/12/05	109 Trailing Oak/2700 SF Sales Price: \$255,000 Price per SF: \$94
		07/07/05	113 Trailing Oak/2242 SF Sales Price: 235,000 Price per SF: \$105
5/19/2006	119 Trailing Oak/1890 SF Sales Price: \$262,000 Price per SF: \$139	07/06/05	102 Pocono/1860 SF Sales Price: \$181,000 Price per SF: \$97
3/20/06	108 Mariposa/2028 SF Sales Price: \$265,000 Price per SF: \$131	06/22/05	106 Pocono/2002 SF Sales Price: \$206,500 Price per SF: \$103
11/17/05	113 Mariposa/1860 SF Sales Price: \$212,000 Price per SF: \$114	02/16/05	100 Lone Eagle/2123 SF Sales Price: 206,500 Price per SF: \$97

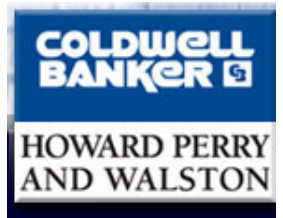
Data compiled and verified by:



Wendy Roof

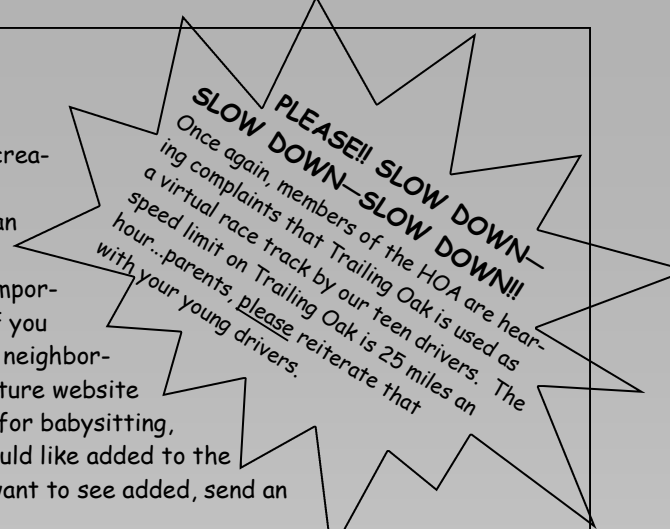
919-388-5407 Office

919-650-9423 Cell



From the Forest Floor...

- **THE NEW FOREST WEBSITE:** We have recently finished the initial creation of your new neighborhood website. You can find it at <http://www.theforest.org> Please take the time to visit. You will find an updated calendar of neighborhood events and some Cary events thrown in. You can also find news from the HOA board and copies of important documents like the Covenants and Architectural Review forms. If you take a moment at the site to register, you will have access to an online neighborhood directory and other resident-only tools. We have a vision for future website additions such as a neighborhood swap section where you can post ads for babysitting, items for sale, services, etc. If you have an idea for something you would like added to the website, we're eager to hear it. Also, if you have a calendar item you want to see added, send an e-mail at website@theforest.org.
- **WALK-IN MOVIE NIGHT:** We're trying something new this summer. Justin and Julianne Walther will be hosting a "Walk-in Movie" night in the 100 Pocono Cul-de-sac on Saturday, July 8th around 7pm. Bring your drinks, food to grill, lawn chairs and your kids. We will provide the movie, projector, and grill. We will show a recent kids movie starting promptly at dusk. If you just want to show up for the movie and skip the BBQ, feel free. If this goes over well, we hope to host a few more during the summer. (NOTE: if you have an old stereo receiver/amp, I'd love to borrow it for the movie projection. Send me an e-mail to Justin@walthernet.com)
- **ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE:** A huge thank you to Suzanne Jack for her service as the volunteer coordinator for architectural changes. Suzanne served in this role for two years as a non-board member. John Olson, current HOA VP has agreed to take over the role. Any exterior changes to your home should be submitted to the Board, via John, for approval prior to beginning the project. An Architectural Change Form is on the web site at www.theforest.org.
- **TEXAS HOLD'EM:** We're looking to start up a regular "penny" poker night. While we have no solid dates/plans yet, if you're interested in playing or even helping organize, send an e-mail to Justin@walthernet.com
- **ANNUAL YARD SALE:** Nine families participated in this yearly event with shopping traffic at a possible highest ever. The weather held and most participants were able to sell the majority of their items. Thanks to Debra Schneider and Kelly Morf for coordinating the sale.
- **EGG HUNT:** Thanks to Cindy Bolden for organizing and offering the Annual Egg Hunt and social gathering. And thanks to all the neighborhood parents and friends for contributing all those plastic eggs and healthy treats to the share. The kids had a blast searching for all those hidden toys and candies, and the grown-ups enjoyed a time of fellowship as they shared the shade of the trees!
- **LADIES NIGHT OUT:** A small group headed to Peak City Grill in historic Apex for dinner on April 9th and though the women had a great time, the food left a lot to be desired, and the service was scattered, at best. Here's the lesson we took away: Good friends make nearly anything edible...and don't go out to eat, at least to a smaller, newer restaurant, the night after Prom.
- **WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS:** We welcome new neighbors in three homes in The Forest: Julia Hudson at 113 Mariposa Drive; Justin and Christine Scheef at 113 Mariposa Drive; and Sandra Beatriz Cameron at 119 Trailing Oak Drive.



Who Does What in the Home Owner's Association?

President	Justin Walther	106 Pocono	463-0493
VP/Architectural Changes	John Olson	115 Trailing Oak	462-3017
Treasurer	Bruce King	104 Trailing Oak	481-6976
Secretary	Liisa Berger	211 Pocono	481-0081
Landscape Co-Chair	Marie Walker	110 Mariposa	319-7418
Landscape Co-Chair	Jim Bustrack	209 Pocono	467-9826
At-Large	Amy Engler	102 Mariposa	468-8085
At-Large	Catharine Rice	102 Pocono	388-4880