

# THE GATEPOST of Sharon Woods

SPRING 2022

SHARONWOODSCA.ORG

## Seasonal Gardening Tips

BY LISA DOVE, FOREST PARK COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR

*Late March and early April is when gardeners get moving!  
Here are some terms and facts to help you get started.*

Hello, Sharon Woods residents! My name is Lisa Dove, and I have lived in Forest Park West for over 35 years. I have been a gardener since we bought our house in 1984, and have received a certification as a Master Gardener from Ohio State Extension in 2000. I've been writing a monthly gardening article for the Forest Park Forester, and I've been asked to share some of the information with you...

It's time to start cleaning up the leaf litter, tilling the garden soil, and preparing your vegetable beds for planting. It's also the time when we begin to hear the lawn mowers, and those who like to manage their lawns apply the first lawn fertilizer and weed preventer.

Remember that the **frost date** for our area is May 15. That means that if you plant before that date, you run the risk of having your blooms nipped by frost. Last year, our final snow/freeze of the year came on May 23. *Don't be in a hurry to plant!*

Columbus has a **Planting Hardiness Zone** of 5B or 6A. You'll see this number on tags when purchasing shrubs/plants at the garden store. It is a measurement of "Cold Hardiness" that a plant can tolerate. The higher the number, the less cold it can handle. So, if you pick up a Hibiscus with a hardiness of 7 or 8, you either need to move to Georgia, or bring it in during the fall/winter. If you want more information on this, send me an email and I'll send you more info.



**Annuals** are flowering plants and vegetables that grow and bloom in one season. These are our bright bloomers that can be planted after our frost date (May 15) and will bloom until our first killing frost (normally mid-October). Some prefer colder weather and some need the heat of summer.

**Cold weather annuals** like Pansies and Primrose are the first to come out in the garden store. These are hardy little plants that can give us some color, can tolerate some cold temperatures, and die back in the summer. Leave them be! They will rebloom in the fall.

**Cold weather annual vegetables** include peas, lettuce, spinach, and cabbage. These seeds/plants can be planted the first week of April.

**Perennials** are plants that live more than two years, and most improve with age. These are the stalwarts of the garden. Examples are: daisies, garden phlox, strawberries, daylilies, and clematis. Perennials don't do much in their first

season, but after one winter the change can be dramatic. Normally you find these already started in containers and are a little more expensive. The plants you buy in the gallon-size containers are normally 1-2 years old, and already blooming. After about 4 years, you may see them decline. That's the time to divide them and share them with your neighbors.

**Biennials** are plants that bloom every other year. It takes 2 years for the cycle to complete. One year you'll have blooms and the next just a rosette of leaves. Many biennial species will reseed easily, increasing your number of plants. Examples are: Hollyhocks, Black-Eyed Susans, Delphiniums, and Foxglove.

I hope this is helpful as you get started in this new season! You can email me with any questions you have or any subjects you would like to discuss at [ForestParkGardener@Gmail.com](mailto:ForestParkGardener@Gmail.com). Also, be sure to sign up for the Sharon Woods Civic Association email list (see page 7) for more tips throughout the year.



# Seasonal Maintenance Tips

*Warmer days are on the way...is your home ready?*

Now that the weather's changing — with temperatures moving in the right direction — we'd like to share some quick tips that'll help you prepare for spring. While this seems to be the preferred time to give the inside of your house a good cleaning, there are also plenty of things to do in the great outdoors...

On a sunny day, take a look at your roof to check for damaged/curled shingles or any signs of leaking or cracking. If you notice algae or moss growing, apply a solution of equal parts water and bleach and then rinse off after 15 minutes. While you're up there, clear out your gutters so they're prepared to whisk away the heavy spring rains. Speaking of rain...it's always good to inspect your sump pump and make sure it's running properly *before* the rain comes.

Walk around the outside of your property to check for any damage that may have occurred during winter months. This includes cracks in concrete, asphalt, and walkways. You might be able to fix these with silicone caulk or concrete fillers, but heavier damage may require professional help.

Run your outdoor faucets and check for any leaks. Take a look at your A/C condenser unit and clear out any dirt/debris so it'll be ready to operate efficiently. You can also apply a foaming coil cleaner that unclogs those small fins so air can flow freely. Scheduling a professional inspection annually is also a good idea.

Spring is a good time to scrub or pressure wash your deck and reapply stains and sealers or fix any damaged woodwork. Clearing out debris from flower beds is also easiest at this time of year, and it'll make your life easier when you're ready to plant. Look out for areas where water may collect and stand for more than a day, as this can become a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

To keep those pesky bugs out of your house, be sure to check windows and doors for any cracks and seal them if necessary. Replace or repair any damaged window screens as well.

Finally, inspecting and tuning up your lawn mower and/or other lawn maintenance tools is an important task to perform before using it in the new season. (Kudos if you did this after the final mowing last year!)

This isn't an exhaustive list, so consider researching other spring tips which can protect your home and prepare your family for fun outdoor time.

*Connect with us online and you'll be the first to hear about what's going on!*



## Our Website

Visit [SharonWoodsCA.org](http://SharonWoodsCA.org) for updates, volunteer opportunities, our calendar of events, previous editions of *The Gatepost*, membership info, and more!



## Email Notifications

When you visit our site, sign up to receive emails. You'll get our blog posts in your inbox, and we won't spam you or sell your email address to anyone. You can also opt-in on [page 7](#).



## Follow Us on Facebook

If you're on Facebook, be sure to follow Sharon Woods Civic Association for photos, news, helpful reminders, and more.



## Call or Text

Want to get in touch with a board member or trustee? Just call or text **614-600-2469** and your message will be sent along to the appropriate person.



## The Northland Fourth of July Parade

BY LAURA BASTIN, SECRETARY

*The Northland Community Council (NCC) is in the midst of planning its 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Independence Day Parade!*

The theme of this year's parade is *Elevate Northland*, and our Grand Marshals will be the women who founded the Elevate Northland organization (ElevateNorthland.org). Elevate Northland's mission is to lift up the people of Northland and create opportunities, so the NCC thought highlighting this organization would be a great way to show our appreciation for all they are doing to better our community.

In the 2019 parade, we had over 30 participating groups including the Northland High School marching band. We are currently taking applications for groups that want to walk in the parade this year, so please email [Chair@NorthlandParade.org](mailto:Chair@NorthlandParade.org) if you want to join the fun. We have a deal with U-Haul on Sinclair Road for a discount on a trailer for your parade float!

Participating groups and floats will begin lining up on July 4 at 9:30 AM in the Home Buys parking lot on Morse Road. The parade will then begin at 11:00 AM and will follow Morse Road.

There are many opportunities to participate and help plan the parade. Leila Ba and I are the Sharon Woods representatives helping with parade planning. If you'd like to join a future meeting, please send me an email ([Laura@SharonWoodsCA.org](mailto:Laura@SharonWoodsCA.org)). We're currently in need of volunteers to solicit donations which will help fund the parade. Another area where we need help is bringing in more parade participants/floats. We would love to have this year's parade be our biggest yet!

Join your fellow Sharon Woods residents to pass out flags along the parade route. It takes many volunteers to distribute the flags to everyone lined up on Morse Road, and it's an inspiring vision to see our neighbors gathered together to show their community pride.

Visit [NorthlandParade.org](http://NorthlandParade.org) for more information on this year's parade.

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## About the Northland Community Council

BY JORDAN REEVES, TRUSTEE & NCC SECRETARY

In 2021, I was given the opportunity to step into the position of Secretary of the Northland Community Council (NCC). Prior to taking this position, I did not know what NCC was or how the Sharon Woods Civic Association (SWCA) was connected. Since then, I've come to appreciate how our organizations complement each other for the betterment of the Northland community and our Sharon Woods neighborhood.

The NCC represents over 130,000 residents in our 25-square-mile swath of Columbus. Seeking to enhance the prosperity and quality of life enjoyed throughout Northland, the NCC works with the Columbus City Council, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, and various city, county, state and nonprofit organizations.

*So, how does Sharon Woods fit into the NCC?* Well, civic associations like ours — along with homeowners' associations and other Northland community groups — send representatives which comprise the council itself. Each month, these representatives gather to discuss important issues about what's happening in their areas and to propose solutions. For over 25 years, our neighborhood has been represented well at the NCC, and thanks to our representative we've been able to make known to the City of Columbus the things that affect Sharon Woods residents. Representatives also glean helpful information about larger city news, which they can report back to our association.



The NCC also houses a committee which focuses solely on development plans in our area. During this Development Committee's meetings, developers who want to build or renovate in Northland present their plans for feedback and approval. The committee then reviews and debates these applications and constructs a recommendation to the City of Columbus for a final vote. This is a vital process which ensures our neighborhoods have a voice in the types of development taking place in our borders.

The NCC invites all Northland residents to share their ideas or to bring their concerns to NCC meetings. We gather on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Westerwood senior living facility (5800 Forest Hills Boulevard in Columbus). Join with us in making our community a better place to live!

# Feral Cats in Sharon Woods

BY TYLER MITCHELL, EDITOR OF THE GATEPOST

*Nobody wants to see an animal go hungry, but feeding or harboring feral animals is illegal.*

Our association has received complaints that some are feeding and/or harboring feral and stray animals (specifically cats). This problem isn't new, but we believe it's important to remind residents about the resources available for stray/feral animals and how you can help. By addressing this problem together we can help curb the spread of disease and reduce animal nuisances in our community.

First, residents should be aware that feeding and harboring feral animals is illegal. The Franklin County Board of Health makes this clear in regulation 709, which applies to residents in Sharon Woods. Notices distributed in Franklin County have indicated that animals owned as pets should be fed inside the owner's residence or outdoors only during restricted daylight hours so as to limit the possibility of creating an attractive nuisance for wild, feral, or stray animals/rodents. For more information about these regulations, call 614-525-3160.



Second, residents should know how to deal with feral or stray animals. Use caution when approaching a stray/feral animal, and consider humanely trapping the animal (using an appropriate trap) for spay/neuter surgery. Stray and feral cats can be taken to Columbus Humane (614-777-7387; ColumbusHumane.org), Shelter Outreach Services of Ohio (614-396-8707; SOSOhio.org), or other local agencies for spay/neuter surgery. (Please contact these organizations beforehand to set up an appointment.)

Finally, any resident can help put an end to this growing problem. **Any individual(s) currently providing food or shelter to feral animals should cease immediately.** Residents who wish to report stray/feral animals can contact the City of Columbus' 311 service (614-645-3111; 311.Columbus.gov) so that the Columbus Public Health department can investigate.

Nobody wants to see an animal go hungry, but feeding or harboring feral animals is illegal. *Thanks for your help in making our neighborhood a more safe and welcoming place for all residents.*



## SWIM LOCAL

You already know that buying goods and services locally is a great thing. Why not swim local too?

Nestled in the centrally-located Woodward Park neighborhood at 5006 Almont Drive, Northland Swim Club is North Columbus' community pool. We offer large open swim areas, six Olympic-length (50 meter) lanes, a lap lane, three diving boards, a water slide, shaded grassy areas, a shelter house, and more! **Northland Swim Club is back and ready for the 2022 swim season...ARE YOU?**

**We are currently hiring lifeguards! To apply, please email [Info@NorthlandSwimClub.com](mailto:Info@NorthlandSwimClub.com). We've kept our low rates from the 2021 season! Learn more at [NorthlandSwimClub.com](http://NorthlandSwimClub.com).**





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# Annual Membership Application / Renewal

Support your Sharon Woods community! Complete and mail the form below or visit [SharonWoodsCA.org/Membership](http://SharonWoodsCA.org/Membership) to apply for new membership, renew your existing membership, or make a donation.

Your annual membership dues and donations help the Sharon Woods Civic Association operate and fulfill its mission of bettering the Sharon Woods community. With about 1,800 residences in our area, we need all the help we can get to keep Sharon Woods safe, clean, and active! In addition to your membership and optional donation, consider serving as a volunteer or by joining our Board of Trustees (see reverse side for more information). **Thanks for your partnership in making our association a vital link between the residents of Sharon Woods and greater Columbus!**

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Your membership renewal date is one year from the month you submit this form. If you need information on your membership status or renewal date, please contact Secretary Laura Bastin (614-600-2469; [Laura@SharonWoodsCA.org](mailto:Laura@SharonWoodsCA.org)).

Today's Date:

First Name:

Last Name:

Street Address (In Columbus, Ohio 43229):

Phone Number:

Email Address:

We do not share your email address; we use it to communicate with you only when necessary.

Member Type (Select One):

Household (\$18)

Senior Age 60+ (\$15)

### Additional Options

# of Christmas Eve Luminary Candles (3 for \$1):

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Sept. 2     Sept. 3

Sept. 4     Sept. 5

Monetary Donation for Community Projects:

Total Amount Enclosed:

What can our association do to make Sharon Woods even better?

Mail completed form with payment to: Sharon Woods Civic Association, P.O. Box 297974, Columbus, Ohio 43229



The Sharon Woods Civic Association is a local not-for-profit corporation operated exclusively for the civic betterment of the Sharon Woods community.

Our vision is to establish rapport with the community, building and cultivating a strong commitment to represent common issues and concerns of all who live and are employed in Sharon Woods. To contact a member of our Executive Board or Board of Trustees, call or text **614-600-2469** with your message or send an email using the addresses listed below.

**Become a member today and help us fulfill our mission to better our neighborhood. See page 7 for more information and instructions.**

*Becoming a Trustee is a great way to give back to your community!  
Email President John Kirkpatrick ([John@SharonWoodsCA.org](mailto:John@SharonWoodsCA.org))  
to learn more about this unique opportunity to serve Sharon Woods.*

## Executive Board

Members of the Executive Board serve voluntarily for two or more years, overseeing official association business and stewarding association resources for the civic betterment of Sharon Woods.

**John Kirkpatrick, *President***  
[John@SharonWoodsCA.org](mailto:John@SharonWoodsCA.org)

**Leila Ba, *Vice President***  
[Leila@SharonWoodsCA.org](mailto:Leila@SharonWoodsCA.org)

**Laura Bastin, *Secretary***  
[Laura@SharonWoodsCA.org](mailto:Laura@SharonWoodsCA.org)

**Karen Osmond, *Treasurer***  
[Karen@SharonWoodsCA.org](mailto:Karen@SharonWoodsCA.org)

## Board of Trustees

Members of the Board of Trustees are elected to serve our community voluntarily for two or more years by participating in association meetings, taking an active part in our activities, and overseeing one or more committees focused on the civic betterment of Sharon Woods. *We're currently seeking new trustees to serve!* If you're interested, please contact President John Kirkpatrick ([John@SharonWoodsCA.org](mailto:John@SharonWoodsCA.org)) to learn more.

**Roger Heckel**  
*Columbus Beechcroft Lions Club Liaison*  
[Roger@SharonWoodsCA.org](mailto:Roger@SharonWoodsCA.org)

**Deacon Hooper**  
[Deacon@SharonWoodsCA.org](mailto:Deacon@SharonWoodsCA.org)

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**How about you?**  
Email [John@SharonWoodsCA.org](mailto:John@SharonWoodsCA.org) to get involved.