



## Spotlight

### Math Camp at Ithaca College

For the last 23 years, Forest Home resident and Ithaca College mathematics professor Dani Novak has been running a summer math camp for students 6-12 years old. This year, the camp will be held from August 13-17. The purpose of the camp is to have fun with math on all levels and help students perceive it as part of their world.

As Dani puts it, "The neurons in the brain simply do not know the difference between math, music, reading, arts, sports, etc. They just love to fire and have fun."

Some of the work that this year's 30 campers do will involve the innovative SeeLogo computer program that Dani and a colleague have written. SeeLogo is based on the Logo computer program originally developed in the 1970's and 80's by MIT professor Seymour Papert and others. The original Logo is a computer programming language that allows students to actively explore mathematical concepts by writing programs to create shapes either on the computer screen or with a robot "Turtle" that draws over paper placed on the floor. SeeLogo amends the original Logo program by making the connection between the linear commands and the visual output more accessible and dynamic.

In addition to computer work, students will explore underlying mathematical elements in art and nature.

Larry Clarkberg of Elucid8 Design, Shannon O'Conner of The Learning Hive, and Suzanne Kurz of the Family Math Partnership are part of the team that runs the camp with Dani. This group was also responsible for putting together a Math Learning Day held at Ithaca College this past March where students in elementary and middle school could investigate cryptology, Lego robotics, and the mathematics of origami.

Several student volunteers and Ithaca College students will be helping out the campers this year as well. Ithaca College is providing the room for the camp at no charge as part of the Math Learning Center programs. In addition to providing programs for school age students, the Math Learning Center contributes to Cornell's Prisoner Express program by teaching math to prisoners.

## The Landscape

### Forest Home Drive Sinkhole

As you may recall, a sinkhole opened up in the walkway along Forest Home Drive between Plantations Road and McIntyre Place earlier this spring. It was originally thought that the old stone culvert underlying the road had collapsed. Subsequent



investigation has revealed that the original stone culvert was still relatively sound; it was the newer concrete addition that had failed, allowing the walkway to subside.

That section of Forest Home Drive dates from the early 1800s, and the stone culvert may have been constructed around that time. It consisted of two dry-laid stone walls 4 ft tall and 3 ft apart, bridged by giant capstones. Each capstone was approximately 8 ft long, 3 - 4 ft wide, and 7 - 9 in thick. Dry-laid stone retaining walls, which may have been added later, ran across the culvert, parallel to the road, supporting the road bed. Sometime around 1930, the pedestrian side path was added. This necessitated extending the culvert and constructing a new stone retaining wall. This new retaining wall had bulged significantly over the years, and the concrete culvert extension eventually failed, allowing the fill material between the two walls to drain out, creating the sinkhole in the walkway.

The Town has removed the old culvert and retaining walls, and is now in the process of installing a new 120 ft long concrete box culvert. It is being shipped in pieces that are bolted together once in place. Instead of constructing new retaining walls, the Town is planning on long "toe slopes" extending from the edge of the roadway down to water level. They expect to complete the project by the end of June. If you have questions, you can contact the Town of Ithaca Department of Public Works at 273-1656.



**New Construction at 31 Fairway Drive**

### Red Survey Flags

For those of you who are wondering about the red survey flags that extend north on Warren Road from Forest Home Drive out to Lansing (and also on some other County roads in the area): Appalachian Geophysical Services <<http://www.appageo.com>> of Killbuck, Ohio has been contracted to prospect for oil and natural gas reserves in this part of the County. They expect to be sending a convoy of three or four linked "thumper trucks" through shortly. Each truck has a 42,000 - 46,000 lb pull-down weight force, which will send seismic waves through the ground. By analyzing the reflected vibrations, technicians can determine what lies below the surface. In theory, the thumping

should not disrupt the roadway, house foundations or underground utilities. Anyone with questions should contact Appalachian Geophysical Services <[info@appageo.com](mailto:info@appageo.com)> or the Tompkins County Highway Department (274-0300).

### New Construction

After a slow start this past winter, developer Phil Lutzi is now making rapid progress on the new house at 31 Fairway Drive. The walls are up and the roof is on, and the house should be closed in shortly. Phil is planning on a completion date of August or September. He is asking \$699,000.



## Recent Events

### Spring Clean-Up

The 2007 Spring Clean-Up was a success this May with almost 20 residents showing up to pick up trash along the streets of our beautiful neighborhood. Anyone interested in organizing next year's Clean Up is urged to contact the Forest Home Improvement Association.



**Intrepid spring cleaners**

### Garlic-Mustard Eradicated!

Well, some of it, at least. Many thanks to Lisa Wickham and Karen Westmont for their recent work to remove 4 bags worth of the foreign invaders on the Forest Home Walkway.



## Embroidery Club Meeting

The Forest Home Embroidery Club has a long history as an association of women residents of our community, dating back to the early 1900s when it was formed as a group of Cornell-affiliated women. Now its doors are open to all women residents of Forest Home. Whether much embroidery has been accomplished over the years, no one knows! Although it has not met in recent years, Ellen Lane took the lead in organizing a spring luncheon, which was held on June 9, 2007 at the Forest Home Chapel.

It was a delightful gathering! There was a refreshing mix of generations among the women attending, the youngest being Jennifer Tegan's baby Alexandra. Others who came included Darcy Binns, Mary Ann Oyer, Valerie Hans, Ellen Lane, Ginny Langhans, Barbara Ley, Ruth Mahr, Elizabeth Sanders, Tizzie Schweitzer, Dorothy Summers, Karen Westmont, Ann McAdams, and Lisa Wickham. (Apologies if any attendee was inadvertently left off this list.)

Club members demolished the many delicious lunch dishes that had been brought for all to share, and enjoyed meeting new people and exchanging reminiscences about Forest Home.

Because the gathering was such a success, another meeting has been scheduled for next June and will be dedicated to the memory of Marge Loucks.

## Cornell Reunion Weekend

June 9 and 10 saw some Forest Home residents and Cornell alums enjoying the festivities at the annual Cornell Reunion. Frank Rhodes, a much loved past president of Cornell, did a lecture on Ezra Cornell... about how he had 5 kids, constantly traveled, and was broke most of his life...and what a good and farsighted man he was. There was a reception at the library, where they have a big display of information about Ezra. History and Government professors, Ted Lowi and Joel Silbey did their annual song and dance about the next election, and who will be elected. Jim Bell talked about the Mars Explorer and the Solar System. One reception featured Finger Lakes Wine and Food and had a very good red wine, which there isn't much of in the Finger Lakes. Festivities wound down with the Glee Club concert, with lots of Cornell Songs.



## Upcoming Events

On Saturday, August 11 from 1-3 p.m. Don Rakow, Elizabeth Newman Wilds Director of Cornell Plantations, will be treating Forest Home residents to a walking tour of some of the Plantations' Forest Home gardens. Don's experience and depth of knowledge will surely add to our appreciation of this much-treasured local asset as well as inspire those of us trying to cultivate our own green thumbs. Stay tuned for more details, including where to gather and rain date information. That information will be available in late July.



**September (date TBA):** Sturt Manning of Crest Lane will give a talk about dendrochronology (tree ring analysis). Sturt is interested in establishing a program of coring old beams in houses in FH, which would help us to determine construction dates of the houses, and would help him to acquire a more robust sample of old timbers from the Ithaca area.



## Ongoing Projects

### Traffic Calming Report

In January the Forest Home Traffic Calming Committee approved a draft Traffic Calming Plan. Heartfelt thanks to all those who helped prepare this report.

Currently the officers of the FHIA are awaiting feedback on the draft from the Town and Cornell, both of whom are working on their own traffic/transportation plans. Once these comments have been received, FHIA will post them along with the Traffic Calming Committee's draft on the FHIA website.

Because it is crucial that the entire Forest Home community have a chance to study, discuss, and provide input on the plan before it is finalized, the FHIA will host open neighborhood meetings in August and September. A date for the August meeting will be announced shortly.

Information about the transportation plans of the Town and Cornell can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.town.ithaca.ny.us/trans/>

<http://masterplan.cornell.edu>

[http://www.transportation.cornell.edu/TGEIS/TGEIS\\_Home-1.htm](http://www.transportation.cornell.edu/TGEIS/TGEIS_Home-1.htm)

## University Neighborhoods Council

The University Neighborhoods Council (UNC) was born in 2005 after the controversy over the Cornell parking lot at Redbud Woods. Established by Cornell administration as part of an agreement with opponents of the parking lot, the council is a forum for discussion between the university and the neighborhoods adjacent to central campus on issues of shared concern.

The UNC generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 7 to 8:30 pm, with a two-month break during the summer. The venue changes from meeting to meeting. Jon Miller has been representing the FHIA. Other neighborhoods taking part are Bryant Park/Collegetown, Cayuga Heights, Ellis Hollow, University Hill and Varna. Cornell representatives come from a range of offices and programs, including Government & Community Relations; Transportation & Mail Services; Planning, Design & Construction; Dean of Students; and Campus Life. Student coops and fraternities are also represented, as are Cornell graduate students living in university housing. A representative of the Ithaca Neighborhoods Council also participates.

Meetings are open to the public. For more information about the UNC, and to find out how you can be involved, please contact Jon Miller at [mil@twcny.rr.com](mailto:mil@twcny.rr.com).

## Deer Update

In February the FHIA sent out an e-mail about the Plantations' plan to erect several deer enclosure fences in March. Although the fences have not yet been built, the proposed locations and fence lines have not changed: the interior of the Mundy Wildflower Garden; around the plant production facility at 397 Forest Home Drive; and in the woods east of Flat Rock on both the north and south sides of the road.

On June 18, the Plantations appeared before the Town of Ithaca Zoning Board of Appeals to request a variance for the fence around its plant production facility. The variance is needed because the 8-foot tall fence exceeds the 6-foot height limit for all front yard fences.

On Tuesday, June 26 at 7:15 pm, the Town of Ithaca Planning Board will hold a public hearing to consider the preliminary and final site plan for all the Plantations' proposed deer fences.

Deer enclosures are part of Cornell's comprehensive deer management plan. The university intends to use

fertility control to manage the size of the herd on central campus, including in the Botanical Garden. (The fertility control program announced in November 2006 has not yet been implemented). In the fall, Cornell will again open some of its land to legal bow hunting.

The deer themselves have been busy as well. Twin fawns were born on Fairway Drive again this spring. They still spend much of their time sleeping, but are now old enough to occasionally be seen out frolicking.

## Comings and Goings

Jennifer Tegan and Warren Allmon of Forest Home Drive are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Alexandra Tegan Allmon, born Thursday, March 8, 2007. Little Alexandra weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Ellen Lane and Andy Galloway of Halcyon Hill got a new puppy, Buddy the cockapoo.

Shana, Chad and Abigail Proell of 116 Warren Road are moving to Madison, Wisconsin where they will be working at the University of Wisconsin as professors. Since the purchase and renovation of their home in 2001 they have gotten married, earned their PhD's, and welcomed their daughter Abigail into the world. Accordingly, Ithaca (and Forest Home) will always have a special place in their hearts.

## Foreign Travels

**Jon Miller** of The Byway traveled to Nigeria in May and June to report two stories for a public radio series for which he is executive producer. The series, called WORKING, features personal profiles of workers in the global economy. In Nigeria, Jon hit the road with Sam Ahmedu, a Nigerian scout for the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies, and spent time on a film shoot with Lance- lot Imasuen, who, at the ripe old age of 37, has already directed 150 movies in Nigeria's booming "Nollywood" video industry. Jon also made his international film acting debut, but that's a story for another newsletter.

WORKING airs as a special monthly feature on Marketplace, public radio's daily show about business and economics, which is heard on more than 300 stations nationwide -- but unfortunately on neither WEOS nor WSKG! Forest Home's own Robby Aceto composed and performed the theme music. You can learn more about Jon's public radio work at [www.homelands.org](http://www.homelands.org).

**Rebecca Nelson** of The Byway spent much of the first half of the year on the road in her capacity as director

of the McKnight Foundation Collaborative Crop Research Program. In February she traveled to Thailand, Laos and Cambodia; in early March she was in Niger and France; in late March she was in Mozambique. In July she's off again to Peru. Several domestic trips don't make this list. For more about Rebecca's work, visit <http://mcknight.ccrp.cornell.edu/index.html>.

**Trevor Pinch** of Crest Lane who is well-known for his writing on the history of the Moog electronic music synthesizer recently gave the Twelfth Annual Hans Rausing Lecture at Trinity College Cambridge University. Trevor says the highlight of the trip was the dinner afterwards in a private Trinity College dining room under the portrait of Sir Isaac Newton. Trevor as honored guest was given the Trinity College high table tradition of dispensing the College port after dinner. The next day Trevor went sailing in the North Sea with an old friend and was very sea sick! He then went on to Trondheim in Norway for a public PhD defense where he was "first opponent". This means his job was to mount an attack on the student's work. Trondheim, Trevor reports, was beautiful at this time of year with the sun never setting and glowing red at midnight on the Fjord surrounded by black snow-capped mountains.

**Pete Loucks** of Crest Lane has been accumulating, in his opinion, too much time at airports, but he is learning a lot traveling to Iran, Sudan, Portugal, Denmark and Austria within the past two months. All these trips are related to regional water resources planning and management – his field of work. He had the opportunity to talk with the presidents of Sudan and Portugal, and what he found amazing was that in both cases absolutely no security checks of any kind, nor the presence of any 'secret service' type people. How refreshing! In Iran he was told the government is currently building over 30 new hydropower reservoirs, and designing another 60, acting as if they were really short of energy. Pete was able to meet and talk with the Minister of Energy and Water who told him Iran was producing more electricity than they needed and hence are selling it to their neighboring countries. (When Pete asked him about their nuclear policy he just smiled.) Pete wants everyone to know that there is still a great love for Americans in Iran, in spite of what we typically see or read in the news media. Given the difficulties both governments have in getting along with each other, it seems amazing that there is such affection, but it's true and our government should take advantage of that. Before the summer is over Pete will

be spending some time in France, The Netherlands, and maybe even Austria again. Everyone is interested in water!

**Dani Novak** of Halcyon Hill just returned from a two week visit to Croatia and Bosnia where he spent time sharing methods of teaching math and exploring the culture and reconnecting with roots from the place his parents came from. He also visited Serbia for a few days and found that all the three countries are still going through a healing process after the 4 year war that ended about 10 years ago. In Bosnia he met a teacher who devotes his life helping kids find meaning and avoid substance abuse by organizing dance and theater activities in the evening for youth and this experience left a strong impression on him. The youth were dancing and singing songs from all Balkan nations.

## In Memoriam

This past March we were sad to inform you of the loss of our dear neighbor Elizabeth (Lib) Delahanty. The memorial service celebrating her life is coming up on July 21, 11 am, at the First Unitarian Church of Ithaca.

## Classifieds

### Family Seeks House for Sale in FH

A family with 3 boys moving from Trumansburg wants to buy a house in Forest Home. If anyone is aware of a 4-BR house for sale or one that might be 'about' to come on the market, please contact Mike Kopliska-Loehr at 274-5438 or 257-2329, and he will forward the information.

## Forest Home News

The next Forest Home newsletter will be published in September, with a plan to continue quarterly publication.

Please send comments and contributions to [forsthomenews@gmail.com](mailto:forsthomenews@gmail.com) or call Michael Bend (319-0827).

Many thanks to Jo Gravely, Michael Bend, Bruce Brittain, Jon Miller, Darcy Binns, Trevor Pinch, Bobbie Scheider, Valerie Hans, Dani Novak, and Pete Loucks, who contributed their efforts to this newsletter.