

# Clair Hills Connection

The Clair Hills Connection is a semiannual newsletter dedicated to informing residents about upcoming events, community initiatives, and ways to get involved.

## Thumbs up for this year's Fall Fun Fest

Our annual Fall Fun Fest is fast approaching so mark your calendars for **Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup>** and join us for an afternoon of food and fun from **2:00 PM to 5:00 PM** at **Edna Staebler P.S.**

This year's free BBQ is sponsored by [Dairy Queen Boardwalk and Dairy Queen Laurelwood](#) and will include hamburgers and hot dogs. We're excited to have [Happy Space Clowns](#) who will be face painting and balloon twisting, plus new this year is the [Game Machine](#) video game van. We will have plenty of other games and activities for the whole family, local vendors and special raffle prizes. This event is free for residents of Clair Hills and special guests, but we are encouraging attendees to bring a donation for the FoodBank of Waterloo Region to help those in need. Read more



about what to bring on the bottom of this newsletter. While not required, we would also encourage residents to RSVP for the Fall Fun Fest on our website.

### FALL FUN FEST

Sat. Sept. 21, 2013

2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Edna Staebler P.S.

### STUDENT VOLUNTEERS!

If you are interested in volunteering at this special community event, please contact Jamie at [events@clair-hills.ca](mailto:events@clair-hills.ca). Volunteers are needed from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM on Sat. Sept. 21 to run and supervise games as well as help set up. Don't wait, sign up to volunteer today! You can also sign-up to volunteer on our website, [www.clair-hills.ca](http://www.clair-hills.ca). Just look for the RSVP volunteer link on the left-hand side of the page.



The Clair Hills Community association is committed to creating a clean, safe, welcoming, and connected community.

Volume 2, Issue 2

September 2013



Tell us what you think about the CHCA and you could win a Starbucks gift card! Just fill out our 2013 survey online or in this newsletter before the deadline. More on page 2.

## Don't forget your FoodBank donation

*Bring your donation of food and/or funds to this year's Fall Fun Fest*

The CHCA is committed to providing a free event for its residents, but we encourage all attendees to bring a donation to the [FoodBank of Waterloo Region](#) to help those in need.

Most needed food items are:

**Canned meat and fish**  
**Beans in sauce**  
**Peanut butter**  
**Pasta sauce**  
**Cold cereal**  
**Rice**

Cash donations will also be accepted at our event.

**Did you know that 37% of those you will help feed are children?**

**Did you know that 5% of the population in Waterloo Region needs our help because of:**

*Lack of affordable housing*  
*Low wage employment, underemployment or unemployment*  
*Physical or mental disability*

*Insufficient pensions*  
*Circumstances beyond their control*

To learn more about the FoodBank of Waterloo Region email them at [info@foodbank.ca](mailto:info@foodbank.ca) or visit their website [thefoodbank.ca](http://thefoodbank.ca).



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# Complete our Community Survey and win a gift card

We want to hear your feedback so we can continue to bring you the right information and events that meet your needs. Please fill out the survey online at our website [www.clair-hills.ca](http://www.clair-hills.ca). If you wish to mail in your response, please fill out the survey below and mail to:

Clair Hills Community Association  
c/o 473 Lausanne Cres, Waterloo ON N2T 2X4

**Submissions will be entered into a draw for a Starbucks gift card.  
Submissions must be received by September 30th, 2013.**

1. How many people currently live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many children, by age, currently live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How do you hear about our events?
  - E-newsletter
  - Clair Hills Connection (print newsletter delivered to your door)
  - Twitter
  - Facebook
  - Website
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which CHCA events have you attended?
  - Fall Fun Fest
  - Spring Clean Up
  - Bus ride to Mayor's New Year Levee/Community Skate
  - Waterloo Siskins Game
  - I have not attended any CHCA events
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
5. What do you like most about CHCA events? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What do you like least about CHCA events? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What can the CHCA do to improve future events? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many of your neighbours do you know?
  - All of them
  - Most of them
  - About half of them
  - A few of them
  - None of them
9. How strong is the sense of community in this neighbourhood?
  - Extremely strong
  - Quite strong
  - Moderately strong
  - Slightly strong
  - Not at all strong
10. How often do you visit the public parks in this neighbourhood?
  - Extremely often
  - Quite often
  - Moderately often
  - Slightly often
  - Not at all often
11. Overall, how safe do you feel in this neighbourhood?
  - Extremely safe
  - Quite safe
  - Moderately safe
  - Slightly safe
  - Not at all safe
12. Overall, how clean is this neighbourhood?
  - Extremely clean
  - Quite clean
  - Moderately clean
  - Slightly clean
  - Not at all clean

13. How proud are you to live in this neighbourhood?
  - Extremely proud
  - Quite proud
  - Moderately proud
  - Slightly proud
  - Not at all proud
14. What do you like most about this neighbourhood? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What do you like least about this neighbourhood? \_\_\_\_\_
16. What changes would most improve this neighbourhood? \_\_\_\_\_
17. If you would like to be entered into the draw for a gift certificate, please complete the fields below with your contact information. The CHCA will not distribute your contact information and will only use it to contact you if you are selected as the winner.  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
18. If you would like to be added to our email distribution list (includes our monthly e-newsletter), please provide your name and email address below. The CHCA will not distribute your contact information.  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Special thanks to local resident Anum Syeda for helping develop this survey.  
CHCA will not disclose any personal information or personal responses and will destroy all paper submissions once the results have been compiled with online submissions.*



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## Working hard to serve you even better

### *Our volunteers are listening to your ideas and feedback*

Since our last edition of the Clair Hills Connection, we've hosted the annual Spring Clean Up and Community Yard Sale, and are looking forward to the Fall Fun Fest on Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup>.

If you've ever planned and hosted events yourself, you know the challenges of coordinating and picking a date, and hoping for perfect weather. In an effort to help with some of those challenges, the CHCA will now host its Spring Clean Up and Yard Sale on the first weekends in May and June respectively, so you always know each year when those events will be (weather permitting of course). We will continue to communicate those key dates to you but it is our hope that with standard dates you can make those annual events traditions in your own households.

When our neighbours ask for help, we always do what we can to lend a hand. Our Parents Group Coordinator, Diana, has heard loud and clear from residents that finding a

babysitter is hard to do, so we're working to find a solution that is both practical and safe. Read more on page 6 about our new Child Care Registry service and the Waterloo Region's new OneList unified waiting list service for licensed child care providers.

Parks and traffic, traffic and parks. These are the top concerns of many of our residents and we are working with our elected officials to help ensure the parks in our neighbourhood get developed and that traffic concerns are addressed. If you would like to provide any feedback or have any questions regarding these topics, please email [government.affairs@clair-hills.ca](mailto:government.affairs@clair-hills.ca)

Our association works hard to provide news, important updates and events. We do this with a relatively small but very dedicated volunteer base. Without their commitment, creativity and spirit, the services and events we provide simply would not exist. We are forever indebted to the work they do but we are also a group always looking to improve and do more. We would love to hear how we're doing, which is why we've developed a Community Survey. You can find this survey online at our website and on page 2 of this newsletter. Tell us how we're doing and the ways you're finding out about events and information. This will help us continually improve our service offering and deliver on our promise to create a connected community.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fall Fun Fest!

Sincerely,

*The Clair Hills Community Association*



## St. Moritz Park Update

The development of St. Moritz Park is an on-going project. In April 2013, the CHCA and City of Waterloo held an interactive workshop where residents of Clair Hills helped brainstorm park features and layouts. The feedback in the session was unanimous amongst participants who proposed naturalized play areas as well as multi-surface recreation spaces to create a park that is both beautiful and functional all year round.

The next stages of development are still being planned. The CHCA is committed to providing information to residents as soon as it is made available and continues to liaise directly with City of Waterloo officials to ensure the parks are developed as quickly as possible.

## Board of Directors & Volunteers

The Clair Hills Community Association is comprised of a Board of Directors and local volunteers. This group of dedicated residents meet regularly to coordinate events, liaise with government and city officials, and bring important information to the community.

### Board of Directors:

John Sweeny, President

Jeff Dooley, Treasurer

Caitlin Smith, Communications

Craig Smith, Social Media

Scott Dougall, Business Affairs

Thomas Bryll, Government Affairs

### Volunteers:

Jamie Harland, Events Coordinator

Teresa Martin, Advertising Coordinator

Diana Clipsham, Parents Group Coordinator

Shelly Reed, General Volunteer

The association would like to extend a very BIG thank you to all its volunteers for their time and commitment.

If you would like to volunteer and/or attend one of our next meetings, please email [communications@clair-hills.ca](mailto:communications@clair-hills.ca)

### UPCOMING CHCA EVENTS:

- **Coffee in the Park:** September 15, 2013
- **Fall Fun Fest:** September 21, 2013
- **Coffee in the Park:** October 6, 2013
- **Monthly Meeting:** October 8, 2013
- **Spring Clean Up:** May 3, 2014
- **AGM:** May 13, 2014
- **Yard Sale:** June 7, 2014

If you would like to recommend a community event, please email [events@clair-hills.ca](mailto:events@clair-hills.ca)

If you would like to join our email distribution list, email [communications@clair-hills.ca](mailto:communications@clair-hills.ca)

### SOCIAL MEDIA:

Follow @ClairHills for that latest updates via Twitter, and join our Facebook page.



## Celebrating 5 years in the community.

We're proud to be part of the Clair Hills community and your choice for financial solutions. We look forward to seeing you soon.

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600 Laurelwood Dr. (Food Basics Plaza) 519-883-0000

# Transform your home with the expertise of an interior decorator

*A good interior decorator will be a good listener who takes cues from your space, style and personality*

Interior decorators are the go-to source of information when you're thinking of renovating your space. Whether it's a one-room overhaul or a full-blown remodel, it makes good design sense to bring in a trained, experienced decorator who listens to you and understands your vision and dreams. This person can provide insightful ideas for a fabulous new solution.

### What if my decorator bosses me around in my space?

Most of us don't want to change everything in our space. Or we're nervous about not having a "good enough" space for a decorator to come to see. We think it has to look fabulously cool already and be perfectly clean.

No worries.

A top-notch decorator will *want* to see how the client currently lives in their space: how they lounge and relax, how they cook, store things, entertain, etc. A fab decorator will work with you and the way you live. She should be a good listener who take cues

from your space, your style, and your personality. She will give you ideas so that your home can represent who you are and reflect your lifestyle, habits, hobbies, and the ways that you enjoy living. She will work within your budget and should be able to work with items that will be staying in your space. Let's face it. Not everyone can afford to change everything when doing a renovation.

### How much should I budget?

Residential remodeling budgets span from very high—millions of dollars—to very low—under \$1000. It just depends on what's being replaced and updated. When you take the time to stand back and look at any given project, there's usually a total budget amount allocated. It makes sense to designate a small portion of the total amount to hire a professional who can provide valuable input that results in a beautiful upgrade that's fabulous and functional. Let's say the budgeted amount for a new family room is \$4000 - \$5000 and will potentially include new furniture, flooring, electronics, art work, and accessories. It would make sense to spend



\$200 for 2 hours of a designer's time to come in and assist you with the plan before you start. A decorator who knows her stuff can come up with clear direction, creative ideas, and will simplify the renovation process for you. She may in fact surprise you with new ideas and solutions that you hadn't considered. There's the value. And this will save you time and money in the long run. Overall, it will guide you down a more direct path, eliminating a lot of other confusing possibilities.

*Continued on page 6 ...*

**your beautiful home**  
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# New Child Care Registry for Clair Hills

*Attention all babysitters , child care providers and child care seekers*

If you are looking for child care jobs close to home, we can help! We have had interest in the neighbourhood for local babysitters, so we are compiling a **Child Care Registry\*** to bring together those seeking jobs and those looking for an extra hand.

**Babysitters/Child Care providers:** Please email [parents@clair-hills.ca](mailto:parents@clair-hills.ca) with the following information to get listed on our registry:

- Full name
- Age
- Availability (Days/Evening/Weekends)
- Phone Number
- Email Address
- Certifications (First Aid, Babysitter's Course, etc.)

**Child Care Seekers:** Stay Tuned! We will compile the registry and then send it out to those who are seeking local child care. If you are interested, please email [parents@clair-hills.ca](mailto:parents@clair-hills.ca) with your contact information and we will add your name to the distribution list once it is ready.

If you are seeking licensed child care, please read about the OneList Waterloo Region on the right-side of this page.

*\*Please note this registry will be for INFORMATION purposes only. The Clair Hills Community Association will not be screening, evaluating, interviewing or verifying the information provided by its participants (either child care providers OR families seeking child care). Those seeking help will be solely responsible for screening, checking references, etc. and those providing child care should perform their own screening of potential clients. CHCA is not liable or responsible for matching involved parties.*

... Continued from page 5.

**What if my decorator comes up with all kinds of crazy ideas that I don't like?**

Great question. A decorator who is worth her weight in gold will come up with a style for you. She's trained to ask the right questions, to observe, and to listen carefully. Her job is really all about *you* and *your* space. It's a discussion that's really fun to be a part of and one of the things that I love the most about my job. Standing in the client's space and talking about all of the potential options makes me happy. Collaborating with clients and discussing potential solutions for a "problem". Things like: what colour should the baseboards be painted? Or what type of window covering should go on that window? Or how does the wall-colour flow throughout the main floor? The solutions to these "problems" will be the thing which ultimately gives you satisfaction and joy in your home. The beauty, the functionality. The space looks fab and functions effortlessly. It's a pleasure to live in a space like that. In my business I work with a lot of do-it-yourselfers as well as clients who are embarking on a new renovation. These informed people want to be hands-on as much as possible with their projects. They often need a design professional who has the expertise and training to pull a look together for them. Professional know-how, combined with the personal style of clients is a winning combination.

*Sandy Cucci is a Certified Interior Decorator, who lives in Waterloo, and is the owner of Your Beautiful Home. Website: [www.yourbeautifulhome.ca](http://www.yourbeautifulhome.ca)*

## OneList Waterloo Region now available



Did you know that Waterloo Region now has a unified waiting list for licensed child care?

Create an account and simply indicate which child care providers wait lists you want to be added to and the date you are seeking care.

Once your account has been activated, you will need to provide information about you and your family on the application form. The information you provide will be used to suggest early learning and child care options. You may place your child's name on as many lists as you choose. The ELCC program will contact you when a space becomes available.

To learn more, visit <https://regionofwaterloo.onehscn.com/>

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O	M	I	C	T	A	S	G	S	<input type="checkbox"/>	FRENCH
T	O	T	N	E	P	A	M	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	MATH
U	P	I	E	T	H	X	N	I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PATHWAYS
T	U	N	R	H	H	S	I	E	<input type="checkbox"/>	READING
D	T	G	F	W	I	N	D	N	<input type="checkbox"/>	SCIENCE
P	E	H	M	A	L	S	A	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTOR
F	R	Q	G	Y	L	L	E	E		
U	S	Q	U	S	S	I	R	X		

# Coffee in the Park returns this fall

This spring, the CHCA launched a new Parents of Clair Hills Group, aimed at Clair Hills parents with little ones aged 0-6 years old who want to meet their neighbours, have some adult conversation and have their kids play together.

We had a few *Coffee in the Park* meets, where we got together for some playtime at local playgrounds and good conversation! We will continue with this event this fall, so feel free to come out and join us!

Here are the details:

**WHO:** You and your little ones

**WHEN:** Sunday Sept. 15th 3:00-4:00 PM and Sunday Oct. 6th at 3:00-4:00 PM

**WHERE:** Bonn Park (741 Brandenburg Blvd, Waterloo) There are swings and a playground for all ages.

**WHAT TO BRING:** coffee or your bevies of choice, appropriate weather gear-rain or shine!

**HOW:** drop us a quick email at [parents@clair-hills.ca](mailto:parents@clair-hills.ca) to let us know you are joining us. If you haven't yet joined the Parents Group, just send a quick email to [parents@clair-hills.ca](mailto:parents@clair-hills.ca) with your interest and we will add you to the distribution list so you don't miss out



on any upcoming events!

As well, we are always looking for new content to add to our Parents Group website. If you know of local programs, parks, shops or places you want to share with other parents, just drop us a line at [parents@clair-hills.ca](mailto:parents@clair-hills.ca) and we will add it to our growing list.

Hope to see you out at an event soon!

**Diana Clipsham**  
Parents Group Coordinator  
[parents@clair-hills.ca](mailto:parents@clair-hills.ca)  
[www.clair-hills.ca/parents-of-clair-hills/](http://www.clair-hills.ca/parents-of-clair-hills/)

## Advertise in the Spring 2014 edition of the Clair Hills Connection.

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**The Clair Hills Community Association works in partnership with the City of Waterloo and is a proud recipient of the City of Waterloo's Neighbourhood Matching Fund for 2013.**



# We're new in the neighbourhood.

And we look forward to meeting you.

## Business hours to serve you:

Monday – Wednesday	9:30 am - 4:00 pm
Thursday – Friday	9:30 am - 8:00 pm
Saturday	9:30 am - 3:00 pm

**Maria Santos, Branch Manager**  
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