

Franklinton Community News

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Solution Line - (410) 448-1383

General Meeting Held November 2004 Pam Cheesboro

On November 20th, 2004, the Franklinton Community Association- came together to share information and resolve issues important to the community's interests.

After introducing the rest of the board members to the general assembly, Pamela Cheeseboro invited the first guest speaker, Mr. Edward Massagli of Dickey Hill Elementary Middle School, to present.

Mr. Massagli envisions a school without boundaries and a campus that extends to the Gwynns Falls Trail. He hopes to create a magnet school that rivals any in Baltimore City and the surrounding areas, through partnerships already forged with The University of Maryland and Gwynns Falls Trail Association, which would promote Dickey Hill as a magnet school for Environmental Sciences. After enthusiastically laying out his vision, he entertained questions from the floor. Mr. Massagli left with us an invitation and a plan of how to become a community organization or individual partner with the school. A copy will be made available to you upon request.

Next, Major Owens, Commander of the Baltimore City Southwest District, introduced herself to the community and explained the police department's strategy to improve the quality of life for area residents.

Dave Green from Baltimore County Planning and Zoning discussed zoning issues of concern to the community. A property owner from the 5600 block of Windsor Mill Rd. has requested a change in zoning from residential only to business/ residential. In addition, the Mill Stream Inn wants to increase

the parking area next to the Inn. Mr. Green explained the steps the community needs to take to express preferences or objections to zoning issues.

The following committee reports were presented: Treasurer's, Web Site, and Solution Line Reports. You may access the Web site at Franklinton.org or Franklinton.net for details.

The Association dues for 2004 have been increased to \$15.00 per household by vote of the general members.

Revisions of the by-laws were passed and will be provided upon request, or they can be found on the Web site.

The general meeting was attended by a diversity of residents and community partners. We were informed, involved and even received a few overdue hugs. Thank you to all the board members who helped coordinate and make this a successful meeting.

C.O.P. United Pam Cheeseboro

On Nov. 10, 2003, the weather mirrored my feelings of both hope and skepticism as I attended Baltimore's first citywide COP conference as the Franklinton representative. Unveiled was "Operation Crime Watch", one phase of a larger program of the community policing efforts being introduced in the city.

The conference began with opening words from Mayor Martin O'Malley. He compared our battle with crime and addiction with other historical calamities that have faced Baltimore. He conveyed confidence that the strength, commitment and integrity of its citizens will overcome our current problems. Sgt. Robert Gibson, Jr., next introduced the city's "New

Crime Watch" initiative, a-partnership between the police and citizens.

Two breakout work sessions provided a chance to network with other communities attending: one was on recruiting and retaining COP members and the other on community/faith-based partnerships in crime prevention. Seniors testified that their neighborhoods' programs do work, allowing them time to spend outdoors and going to stores themselves for the first time. Other communities told of the difficulties they faced and had to overcome in establishing COP programs. (All made me very glad to live in Franklinton!)

Lunch was served with a hitch; it was a working lunch. Approximately 40 other residents of our Southwest District shared community concerns and strategies for continuing improvements in the quality of our lives. Everyone agreed that an ongoing network that would connect our communities throughout the region was essential. Local officers from our precinct were available for questions and advice.

I left the COP conference with a renewed sense of commitment and resolve. I dare say, I BELIEVE.

Forest Park Ave. Resurfacing Project

Kevin Livingston of the Baltimore Transportation Department attended the January board meeting where he updated us on the plans for the project and noted residents' concerns.

Mr. Livingston said that the standard 90- degree curb preferred by residents at the initial meeting would be incorporated into the resurfacing project. Although there will be no sidewalks (which is consistent with the wishes of Forest Park Ave. residents), they will fill in 12 to 24 inches behind the curb to create a level grade to meet the curb. There will be no cost to property owners. Mr. Livingston stated that the city would soon be contacting residents along Forest Park Ave. by mail with information regarding this project. You may

view the plans for the project at Franklinton.org.

Dogwood Road Parking Jack Lattimore

The Association is working in cooperation with Baltimore County officials to discontinue residential and commercial parking on the streamside of Dogwood Road from the Forest Park bridge to the community's boundary at St. Mary's church.

Two years ago the Association formed a committee to consider the issue of parking on Dogwood Road and to make recommendations. The committee surveyed the residential neighbors along Dogwood Road and found that most were willing to give up parking on the streamside. The process stalled, however, when the Association felt there could be no fair way to implement a residential parking ban while exempting businesses.

During the past 2 years it has become clear that parking on the streamside of the road is a growing problem. It is helpful here to review the reasons many concerned citizens believe that a parking ban on the stream side is important.

First and foremost, the land in question is designated parkland and under the management of the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks. Because of this, the land is not available for residential or commercial parking.

Safety is another important consideration. Dogwood Road is narrow with a number of dangerous blind curves and a history of traffic accidents. Vehicles are casually parked on the shoulder of the road and often partially on the roadway itself, obstructing the free flow of traffic. Pulling in and out of these unmarked parking places endangers not only people driving along the road but also residents and visitors.

Parking on the streamside of Dogwood Road creates a number of significant

environmental problems. Parking is taking place in the 100-year floodplain. Following Tropical Storm Agnes in 1972, the County purchased and removed residential units from this area for the express purpose of reducing public exposure to flooding and potential water pollution from properties and vehicles. Continued parking on the streamside runs counter to this policy and public land management practices.

Many of the parking places extend right up to the top of the stream bank. This is directly counter to water quality, and stream and resource protection laws. The County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management (DEPRM) is required under the development review process to establish buffers to protect streams, water quality and forest resources. DEPRM is doing this through its "Dead Run Restoration Project" that has made a number of improvements along the stream from Woodlawn High School down to the intersection at Old Ingleside Avenue, Security Boulevard and Forest Park Avenue. In addition, the Association, with a grant from the County Office of Community Conservation is planting a number of native trees and shrubs along the streamside through its "Dogwoods for Dogwood Road" project. Allowing continued parking on the streamside of the road compromises these efforts and makes it difficult to comply with state and federal water quality requirements.

On the residential side of the road some development has included asphalt paving, increasing the amount of impervious surface. This kind of development requires additional water quality and buffer protection to protect the stream. This is done on the streamside of the road where the buffer can be improved.

As you can see, there were already a number of important reasons to end parking on the streamside of the road. The reason the Association has revisited the issue and is requesting County enforcement is

because the parking situation has become worse over the past 2 years. Despite the fact that it is county parkland, some residents have actually installed stone and asphalt in makeshift parking areas at the top of the stream bank. Broken down vehicles have been left for considerable periods of time. These kinds of activities are a threat to water quality and detract from the natural beauty of the stream as well as the neighborhood.

Finally, it is important to remember the significance of Dead Run stream to our community. The stream and the woods surrounding it are a vital buffer between our community and the busy urban thoroughfare of Security Boulevard. It is an important natural resource in terms of forest and aquatic wildlife. If the stream is allowed to degrade, we and our children risk losing touch with a natural gem right in our midst. Everyone is concerned about the health of the Chesapeake Bay and we all complain about things that harm it. Dead Run stream and the wooded areas around it is a sub-watershed of the Gwynns Falls Watershed that is part of the Patapsco/Back River Basin that drains directly into the Bay. By protecting Dead Run stream, we are doing our part to protect the Bay.

There can be no fair way to prohibit parking on the stream side of the road and exempt certain individuals or businesses. That is why the Association is seeking an end to all parking on the stream side. By ending parking on the stream side we are helping to protect and improve Dead Run, and we are assisting in the effort to save the Chesapeake Bay. That's something we all want!

Entryway News

Franklintown Rd Bridge No. 96 over Dead Run a.k.a. Old Ingleside Road Bridge" as identified by County Public Works came under discussion at the last FCA General Meeting in

November. The bridge that leads from Security Boulevard to Franklinton Road near Bullwinkle's is not up to modern standards and is, in fact, slowly, but surely beginning to disintegrate. Public Works estimated that it would take, at minimum, half a million dollars to bring it up to standards for stability. The City had offered to take over the bridge, using it as the entryway to the Gwynns Falls Trail (from the Park and Ride on I-70) solely for pedestrian and bike travel. This would effectively close it to all motor vehicles.

The County was enthused. It would eliminate the need for costly upgrades and transfer maintenance to the City. After traffic surveys, it was determined that less than one thousand vehicles use the bridge, but rather than making a unilateral decision to close it, County DPW brought the matter to FCA for input. Attendees ("stakeholders") noting an inconvenience to the community voted to leave the bridge open to cars and section off an area for Trail use.

In a letter dated Dec. 23, 2003, Ed Adams, Director of Public Works for the County stated:

We still do not plan to replace the bridge whenever the consultant bridge Inspectors tell it is no longer capable of carrying three tons. County policy is to close bridges to vehicular traffic when they are not capable of carrying three tons. The bridge is currently load rated at five tons. When the bridge is closed to vehicular traffic, we will again discuss giving the bridge to the City, exclusively for a trail.

A Humbling Story Sue Jackson-Stein

As co-chair of the 2003 Toy Drive, you learn a lot about the lives of our neighbors, but this tale illustrates how invaluable the Toy Drive is ... At an area store where I do business, I've become quite friendly with many of the employees. Chatting, I asked one of the associates how her holidays had been. She told me they were "blessed" because she'd been able to give her kids toys for the first time in a long while ...

She'd received toys, school supplies and jackets at St. Luke's Church, site of the distribution. ...This is a woman who works two jobs and as much overtime as she can get. Her marriage of 11 years ended when her husband became involved with drugs. She confessed that there are times when there is no food in the house after rent is paid. Because she does work, the family is ineligible for Social Services help and her husband, who is now incarcerated, pays no child support.

Thank you to all of the generous Franklin- town residents who contributed to the 2003 Woodlawn Toy Drive campaign and made the winter holidays a little brighter for neighbors like the one above. In total, the Toy Drive helped 150 families in 21207 and 21244 Zip Codes, including the Franklinton community. Because we work in conjunction with the Salvation Army, your tax-deductible dollars go a long way.

The Toy Drive would like to extend special "thank you" to Otterbein Bakery on St. Agnes Lane in Franklinton for their support, St. Mary's Episcopal Church on Dogwood Road and to Dickey Memorial Presbyterian Church in the neighboring community of Dickeyville for their extremely generous contributions to the Toy Drive.

A Joy for All Nancy Masters Long

Another spot in Franklinton has been made beautiful. Many people had a hand in the beautification of the triangle on the right as you travel from Forest Park Avenue down the hill to the heart of Franklinton. Anne Gossett called city forester Marion Beddingfield to inquire about possibilities for this small city-owned area. Mr. Beddingfield was quite forth- coming with knowledge of suitable trees. Not only that, he provided and planted the little trees.

The arrangement was designed by (who else) Fred Worthington and includes shrubs and ornamental grasses. Fred studied landscape design at the Maryland Institute College of Art and has practiced extensively on

the attractive grounds of his home. The owner of Bullwinkle's Saloon, Rocky Palumbo, bought the shrubs and grasses, which were then planted by neighborhood volunteers and watered by the plentiful rain of early summer. The diggers and planters included Rick Purnell, Carroll Frey, Bill Eberhart, Fred Worthington and Anne Gosseft.

Many thanks to all of you who were involved. A place of beauty is a joy for all who see it.

Proposed Area Development Concerns Neighbors

A proposed 22-family housing development of semi-detached homes to be built on a large parcel that abuts Sunbriar Lane, Park Place and Mosby and Thistlebloom Avenues in the County is raising area concerns. Check out the FCA website and future newsletters as FCA continues to examine this proposal and its implications with County officials.

Black History Nancy Masters Long

Years ago I went with my son to Dickey Hill Elementary School to celebrate Black History. Our assembly planners had invited several role model citizens to be part of the program. These guests, both Black and White, sat together and filled one whole row of seats in the auditorium. As I sat a few rows behind them I noticed that all those on the right end of the row leaned far to the right. Those on the left leaned to the left.

Why?

In the middle sat the famous and broad-shouldered Baltimore football player, John Mackey!

Save Those Cartridges!

Several large office supply stores in the area will recycle your used computer printer's ink cartridges in exchange for free printer

paper. If you don't want to bother going to the store yourself, FCA will gladly do it for you and use the paper to publish our newsletter. Save the used cartridge and FCA will collect it at the General Meeting in May.

Blood Drive

The Red Cross will be at Kernan Hospital's Conference Center, Thursday, February 12th, from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Please call 410-448-6760 to schedule your life saving donation. Red Cross is 1,000 units low in our region due to recent weather. Please consider giving at this time.

FCA Works for You! Join Today

Fill out coupon and send to
Franklintown Community Association
P.O. Box 7537
Baltimore, Maryland 21207-0537

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

1-year Memberships @ \$15.00 per household

Total \$ _____

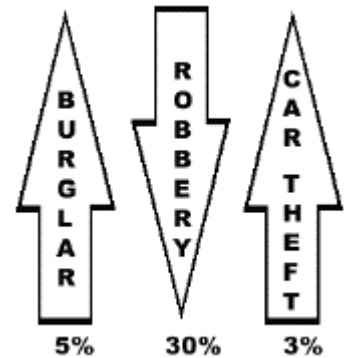
Every community is an association of some kind and every community is established with a view to some good, for everyone always acts in order to obtain that which they think good. But, if all communities aim at some good, the state or political community, which is the highest of all, and which embraces all the rest, aims at good in a greater degree than any other, and at the highest good.


Aristotle (384-323 BC), Greek philosopher

FROM THE FRANKLINTOWN C.O.P.

What is our purpose, goal and function?

- To acquaint individual citizens with their responsibility in the maintenance and preservation of law and order through implementation of various programs
- To acquaint a general public with the professionalization and operation of police activities
- To secure greater public cooperation with the Baltimore County Police through better understanding and communication
- To promote increased cooperation between the police and other community agencies
- To serve as a base for neighborhood maintenance and improvement
- To assist in Crime Prevention
- To serve as liaison between the Police Department and the neighborhood
- To consult with the Precinct personnel on problems of law enforcement within the Precinct and render suggestions for improving police service
- To report to police knowledge of potential and actual law violations
- To assist police in the education of all citizens in how to reduce opportunities for crime to occur
- To reduce juvenile crime





This **CRIME PREVENTION STAR** is awarded to
**FRANKLINTOWN
COMMUNITY ASSOC. &
CITIZENS ON PATROL**

They took the time, made 500 copies of the flyer that was designed to address the problem of KEYS BEING LEFT IN RUNNING CARS TO WARM THEM UP, which is the cause of many auto thefts. They distributed them door to door in their neighborhood. *(The Car Theft Arrow on page 1 went from Down to UP this time; & This problem was a great portion of the cause.)* **Who is willing to earn the next STAR?**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A RESIDENT TO HELP WITH OUR PROJECTS ON THE CITY SIDE OF OUR COMMUNITY. TRY IT YOU WILL LIKE IT! want to learn more, there are lots of other info., about our community. Call **410/298/6344** or **410/448/1383** ask for **Sam**.