



**September 2002**

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**A Fresh Start**

The Franklinton Community News is the revamped quarterly publication of the Franklinton Community Association. Four times a year we will bring you official Association reports, happenings in the County, City and State that affect our area and the people who live here. The staff will also publish bulletins and meeting notices.

The newsletter committee, volunteer columnists and "deliverers" are committed to keeping the neighbors of Franklinton informed. Look for "Among Neighbors", a new column interviewing older and brand-new members of the community. "Cityscape, Countyside & Statewide" focuses on regional issues that impact us as a community. In addition, we will keep you informed of activities at such institutions as Kernan Hospital, Gwynns Falls watershed, Leakin Park among others.

Volunteers, we always need them! If you would like to help with distribution on your block, call Sue (410-944-4869). The staff of the Franklinton News is anxious to hear from you--your comments, suggestions, and ideas for articles. If you have an article to submit, send it to Franklinton News, PO Box 7537, Baltimore, MD 21207. Space, however, is limited and staff reserves the right to edit.

**A Message from the FCA president**

***Unity Through Diversity***

It may seem strange to begin a message about unity with the word diversity--a word that means differences. When you really think about it though, it is perfectly natural.

Consider the many symbols that at once depict unity and diversity. Would a rainbow be as beautiful without its different colors blending together? How strong would a wheel be if it had only a few spokes?

Many who live in the neighborhoods of the Franklinton community were drawn here because of its diversity. We are racially, ethnically, culturally and economically diverse. We are even geographically diverse: through our community association we bring together city and county residents. We live close enough to the city's center to enjoy its many attractions, and yet we all live within walking distance of streams and woodlands that insulate us from the hustle and bustle of city life. We live in diverse styles of houses--in modern split-level and ranch-style homes as well as homes built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. I was recently leafing through a book about housing styles of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. There was my house (well, a picture of a house that looked very much like mine, anyway). It was known as a "city/country house" because it was designed to accommodate people like us, who wanted country charm adjacent to the city.

So how do we get from diversity to unity? By working together. For over 31 years the Franklinton Community Association has brought together all kinds of people to work for the purposes set forth in Article II of its bylaws:

*"to eliminate prejudice and discrimination; to defend human and civil rights; to combat community deterioration and eliminate neighborhood tensions; to maintain, improve and protect the area; to enhance the quality of life for all in*

*the community; and to promote such other purposes as shall be of general concern to the members."*

A challenging and hopeful agenda, for sure, but it shows that our community was formed to create unity through diversity in the neighborhoods of Franklinton, Windsor Terrace and Windsordale. We honor the founders of our community association (many of whom still live here, and some of whom still serve on the Board of Directors) when we work together through our association to meet neighborhood challenges and keep the hope of unity through diversity alive in all our residents.

Look around you. Do you see discrimination in our community? Deterioration? Tension? Do you see a need to improve and protect our area and enhance the quality of life for all in our community? If you do, join your neighborhood association, the one that has represented us for so long. You won't always find agreement, but that's what diversity is about! And that's what we represent. It is your community. It is your association. Work with us, because in unity through diversity we gain that single ingredient we all need to solve our problems--strength.

Jack Lattimore, President  
Franklinton Community Association

#### **Membership Drive/Survey (What's in it for me?)**

Yesterday, today, or sometime in the very near future you did or will receive a community survey packet asking you to express your aspirations and concerns for our community and to become a supporter of the Franklinton Community Association.

"What's in it for me?" you ask.

Other than the money, time and emotional energy we place in our families, for most of us our home is our second greatest investment--and why not? It's where we nurture our first greatest investment. We all need to be a part of protecting these investments. Your membership support and survey information will help

create and direct initiatives to maintain and enhance the quality of life in our community, which will, in turn, maintain and increase your investment in your home. When you receive your survey, please take the time to complete and return it along with your membership in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided. If you decide you cannot become a registered member at this time, we would still appreciate your being a part of the process by returning the survey.

#### **CITYSCAPE, COUNTYSIDE, STATEWIDE**

##### **Kernan Gate House**

The police substation at the Kernan Gate House has seen major improvements lately thanks to the Franklinton Citizens On Patrol and Kernan Security. The bushes have been pruned, vines removed and new lighting purchased. A sign, similar to our Franklinton Community signs, arrived and will be installed soon. "Accent Imaging, who did FCA's community signs, did a great job," said Jack Lattimore, FCA president. And, yes, police surveillance and the COP are using the substation regularly. For more information about Citizens On Patrol, call Sam: 410-298-6344.

##### **Kernan and Dogwood (Countyside)**

The intersection of Kernan Drive and Dogwood Road is looking a lot better thanks to the work of Traffic Engineering at the County Department of Public Works. They have installed new curbs, sidewalks and traffic signals. State Highways is replacing the problematic signal at Kernan and Security Boulevard with a state-of-the-art, computerized traffic sensor. This should help clear up the frequent traffic jams at this spot. The Security/ Woodlawn Village Business Association helped lobby for these improvements.

##### **Watershed News (Statewide)**

Noticed the trucks near the stream? County workers are daily monitoring the water quality and quantity of Dead Run, which parallels Dogwood Rd. This is

part of County Executive Dutch Rupersberger's \$700k Watershed Restoration Initiative. This, in turn, is a component of the State's Gwynns Falls Watershed/Chesapeake Bay restoration. According to County Executive Rupersberger's newsletter, "The entire I-695 and I-70 interchange has no storm water controls and is currently being reviewed by DEPRM and the State Highway Administration to undertake a major retrofit project..." to include streamside native plantings, removal of cement paving and culverts, establishment of "water gardens," etc. to control storm run-off. Restoration has already begun near Security Boulevard industrial and shopping area.

Save this date! The 2nd Annual Gwynns Falls "Get To Know Your Watershed" Festival is Saturday, October 5, 12 noon until 4 p.m. Food, fun and family activities are HAPPENING at Winan's Meadow, Leakin Park. For information call 443-429-3183 or check [www.gfwa\\_emily@toadmail.com](http://www.gfwa_emily@toadmail.com).

#### **RED LINE (Statewide)**

One of the key tenets of Maryland's Smart Growth policy is to reduce pollution that affects our air quality and even the health of the Bay. Flight to outlying areas, which increases dependence on auto traffic and highway construction, aggravates the problem. Instead of allotting money to build new roadways, the 2002 Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP) hopes to create a seamless, convenient and efficient transportation plan that will reduce environmental pressures and encourage citizens to use mass transit.

A recent influx of Federal monies for light rail has allowed the State to develop an ambitious expansion plan. Hubs would radiate from the City to shopping and work centers in the counties. Shuttles and fuel-efficient buses would connect other areas at the ends of the lines. Scheduling would accommodate commuters both ways.

The initial routes planned for the Red Line to our area proposed using Franklinton Rd. through Leakin Park or

Cooks Lane as the most direct routes from Route 40 to the Social Security Administration in Woodlawn. Citizens and environmentalists were very vocal in their opposition. The amended MTP plan for the 18-mile Red Line calls for the light rail to follow I-70 from Howard County, to SSA, Westview, and traverse Route 40 to downtown. There it would connect with other expansion lines to the eastside, Owings Mills and Harford County.

#### **Redistricting Splits Neighborhood, New County Council District**

The Maryland Legislative 10th District, which used to encompass all of the Franklinton area, has been split. Due to population shifts, the new district lines were drawn at the City/County line. The City part of our Association is now in the 41st District. It remains in City Councilmatic District 5. The County portion that includes Windsor Dale and Windsor Hills remains in the 10th District, but becomes part of the newly created 4th County Council District. This new district reunites Woodlawn, Randallstown and Granite that had been split in the 1991 redistricting.

Franklinton will miss the regional services of Del. Nathan-Pullian, Jones, Burns and Senator Kelley. Our soon-to-be ex-Councilman Kamentez provided outstanding constituent service for county residents.

Voter registration for this important general election ends Oct.16, 2002. Voter registration applications can be found at the Dept. of Motor Vehicles at Mondawmin Mall, The Pratt on Forest Park Ave. and the Woodlawn library.

#### **FYI**

For your information, it is illegal to park commercial vehicles over 3/4 ton on residential streets in both City and County. Call police 311(City) or 410-887-2222(County) to report. Such illegal parking diminishes the quality of life here and also can be a traffic hazard.

Untagged automobiles are sprouting like dandelions in our area. If they are on the streets, police will ticket and tow them. If they are in yards, owners

will be ticketed and fined. Use the non-emergency numbers above to report.

**Woodlawn Library**--Rebecca Berkeley

The Woodlawn Library at 1811 Woodlawn Drive, Baltimore, MD. 21207 has many services and materials for the community. The Library offers 12 computers for public use, all with Internet and word processing capabilities. We offer classes in Introduction to Computers, Introduction to the Internet, E-mail for Everybody, plus a Computer Workshop for teens. All you have to do is call to sign up for these classes.

The Woodlawn Library also offers many programs for children such as "Books for Babies" and a drop-in "Story Time." Of special note, Woodlawn Branch is celebrating its 25th Anniversary of providing service to the community. The Library has planned weeklong activities, October 21 - 26, 2002, which include music, local authors, magic and more.

So come and visit us at the Woodlawn Library!

Library Hours: Monday - Thursday-10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday-10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

More Info (410) 887-1336

**Carmine Garden**--Nancy Masters-Long

The outstanding qualities of the Carmine gardeners may be their numbers and their wonderful diversity. At the annual City Farms Dinner in August, we saw slides of many beautiful flower and vegetable gardens. However, when Carmine was called at photo time, a multi-ethnic horde trooped up to the camera. They ranged in age from pre-teen to octogenarian. They had come from all corners of Franklinton, Windsor Terrace, and Windsordale to plant and water and weed and pick. There were Cub Scouts, 4-Hers, experienced gardeners and beginners. Many of them carried award ribbons and certificates of merit in the photo.

**Editorial Staff**

Stephen Fleagle  
Sue Jackson-Stein

Anna Brayek won a blue ribbon for her caricatures made of vegetables. Did you ever see an okra grasshopper?

Sam Speesler's chard won a blue ribbon, as did Carolyn Tyson's okra.

True to form, Dorcas and Christina Kirkland took honors for their work, both at Carmine and at Leakin Park gardens.

The new shade garden, planned and cultivated by Debbie Brayek and the 4-H young people, is a delightful place to sit to relax and be refreshed.

Also new are the two distinctive entrances, one of which is accessible to the handicapped. They are the work of Sam Speesler, Ruffie London, Fred Worthington and Reggie Clark. No doubt the gates helped impress the judges, who awarded Carmine a blue ribbon for beauty.

In addition to enjoying fresh vegetables themselves, Carmine gardeners grew food to share. Shelley Moody, Debbie Brayek, and Ruffie led a crew of young people who picked and delivered vegetables and bouquets. Their gifts were welcomed by Greenhill Apartments for assisted living and by church food pantries for sharing.

How did this garden produce so much in this hot and dry summer? Thanks to the city, Ruffie got a permit to use the nearby fire hydrant to water by hose and by diligently carried buckets.

The Carmine Gardens are on a city lot that used to be an eyesore of tall weeds and trash. It was totally blind Vicki Kelley who presented to the FCA the idea of making it a garden. We're not sure who first had the idea, but it is a sweet bit of irony that the proposal was made by a blind woman with vision.

**FCA Board**

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