

Franklinton Community News

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Solution Line—410-448-1383

Breakfast with the Board

September is the first month the Franklinton Community Association Board will have a Saturday morning breakfast meeting. For those early risers who just have to get up and go, please join us. The meeting will be held Saturday, September 6th at 8:00 am at the IHOP located in Security Square. Hope to see you there.

Attention Franklinton City Dwellers

Candidates for City Council District 8, which includes Franklinton, will be participating in a forum Thursday, August 28, 2003, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Edmondson-Westside High School, 4501 Edmondson Ave. Our Association is a Co-Sponsor for this presentation offered by The League of Women Voters of Baltimore. Please take advantage of this opportunity. For more information call CPHA at 410-539-1369 or the League of Women Voters at 410-377-7738.

Dogwoods for Dogwood Road

Jack Lattimore

“Dogwoods for Dogwood Road” is the name of a grant that was awarded to the Association by the Baltimore County Office of Community Conservation. The goal of the project is to install Dogwood trees and other native plants along the stream side of Dogwood Road from Kernan Drive south to the city line at Franklinton. The amount awarded to the Association for this project is \$3,529. Including voluntary community labor covering design, installation, and maintenance, the value of the grant is over \$4,400.

The grant was awarded last spring, and work commenced on Phase I of the project in May. This first phase focused on the corner lots at Dogwood Road and Kernan Drive. Over a period of two weekends community volunteers installed Dogwood and Redbud trees, a Red Maple, a Beech tree, Winterberry (a type of Holly), Chokeberry, Serviceberry, Viburnum, Wax Myrtle, Broom sedge, Goldenrod and Black-Eyed Susan. In a flurry of swinging picks and shovels 50 plants were installed and a small berm was created along Dogwood Road to prevent careless drivers from running over the new planting. It was a test of our cooperative spirit that enabled us to accomplish this amount of work in such a short period of time. We passed!

Getting the plants in the ground is only the first step, however. Then comes the *TLC* to get the plants off to a good start. Mother Nature was on our side, so the plants have needed little supplemental watering, although I made numerous trips with a bucket down to the stream and hauled water up to the plants in those first few weeks after planting. But water is only 1 part of getting small plants off to a healthy start in an urban environment. The biggest challenges we face are the human kind. Shortly after planting, an incredibly inconsiderate driver actually drove over the 1-foot high berm we created and crushed 2 small Wax Myrtles. Ruffie London came to the rescue and placed logs on top of the berm to discourage any further incursions. Then there was the county maintenance crew. Give a man a weed-whacker and look out! The Black-Eyed Susan and Goldenrod were mowed down twice before a call to the County Executive's Office put an end to this depredation. I think we truly have the problem solved this time. The county maintenance crew is now on board as a partner with us on the project.

So Phase I is complete. We have lost a few plants but that is to be expected and they will be replaced. Next comes Phase II. Planning is now underway to continue the planting south along Dogwood Road. During September and October expect to see neighborhood volunteers once again swinging those picks and shovels and standing back admiring a newly planted shrub or tree.

Volunteers for Phase I included Pam Cheeseboro, Steve Fleagle, Mary Fleagle, Jarrett Fleagle, Will Fleagle, Sue Jackson-Stein, Sue Lattimore, Kerry Lattimore, Ruffie London, Dave Schaefferman and David Taylor. Baltimore County personnel have also been of great help, especially County Executive, Jim Smith, who came out and helped us plant the Beech tree, David Carroll and Karen Ogle of the Dept. of Environmental Protection and Resource Management, Mary Harvey and Chris Pitcher of the Office of Community Conservation, Harold Reid of the County Executive's Office, and John Ross of the Dept. of Recreation & Parks. Many thanks to all of you. Your contributions will outlive us all!

MTA New Red Line Today...or Maybe Tomorrow

More likely tomorrow. On July 23rd the Franklinton Community Association held a general meeting to discuss the proposal to create a rapid transit connection from Fells Point through Baltimore City into Baltimore County near Social Security. The proposal includes possible routes as well as transportation modes.

Attendees agreed that the least desirable route proposed would be Cooks Lane. (Going through Leakin Park is not even under consideration.) One of our members proposed a route that was not suggested, which took maximum advantage 70 and 695. The most desirable mode of transportation of those proposed was light rail with an option of several types of light rail cars.

A representative from MTA visited the meeting. He spoke on the advantages of updating the present system and informed us Baltimore was well behind in public transportation in comparison to other major cities. He also reminded us that at this point this rapid transit connection is only a proposal with no concrete means of moving forward, but our input at this level is what all great ventures are built on.

The turn out for this meeting was appreciated, and we hope to see more residents participate as opportunities arise.

From the Franklinton C.O.P.

We are making great progress in slowing down crime and cleaning up trash in the neighborhood. Our county contacts are in place and working well; however, we still need a city resident who is willing to step up to a management position with C.O.P. Having a city resident on board would help strengthen community involvement and further take a bite out of crime. Office space is available in the Gatehouse, and we have good contacts with city police and officials. Training and equipment are provided.

The Kernan Gatehouse Police Sub Station is being renovated and painted in accordance with the historical era in which it was built. It is in need of landscaping. If you have any small trees, bushes, flowers to donate or if you would like to help with these projects, it would be truly appreciated.

There are a lot of good things happening in our community. Consider getting involved. Everyone's efforts make a difference. Remember, it's a great way to earn middle and high school service learning hours (75 hours needed to graduate!) Please call Sam (Project Director) at 410-298-6344 or the Solution Line, 410-448-1383.