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**GENERAL MEETING:**

2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

**JANUARY 10, 2012****6:30-8:00****26 N. FULTON AVE**

BON SECOURS COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTER

COME MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS!

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**AGENDA**

No meeting in Dec.

Enjoy the Holidays!

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**COMMUNITY CLEANUP**The City provides dumpsters, bags & brooms  
Call Edith to schedule one on your block

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**MEMBERSHIP**Membership is \$10 per year  
Call Edith to join or just come to a meeting

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**WASTE PICKUP****RECYCLING: TUESDAYS**When a holiday falls on Tuesday, pickup  
will be the previous Saturday**TRASH: THURSDAYS**When a holiday falls on Thursday, pickup  
will be the following Saturday*Established April 23, 1839*

# Hello Franklin Square

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2011

## Report Out

We generally maintain our focus on the future. It is most important to look forward, to have a plan and head for it, you can't drive a car looking in the rear view mirror. Every once in a while though, it is good to glance back and just be sure that what you thought you were doing is really what's happening. This is the only way to see if you are really being effective. The questions to answer are: What have we done? Is it what we said we would do? If the answer is yes, Fantastic! Keep going. If the answer is no we need to decide if we need to do something different or say something different. This being the end of 2011 let's take a look back at what Franklin Square Community Association has accomplished in the last year.

The back of the newsletter is dedicated to exactly that. We have listed the accomplishments of the past year. Look it over; we have done a lot and with a small membership. We need to talk about if they are the right things. Come to our next meeting in January if you want to be part of that conversation. And consider that if we had more members we could do even more. If you want to be a part of an organization that is making a real difference in a very important place, your home, then join us. It costs \$10/ year and you can be a part of the action.

You also get a plant to decorate the front of your house as a free gift for joining.

Joining is easy. Just fill out the information below and mail it to Franklin Square Community Association, PO Box 4424, Baltimore, MD 21223, bring it to a meeting, or call us for alternate arrangements.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

This newsletter is delivered to your door monthly by your neighbors. Hand delivery is sometimes unreliable. Save us some walking and guarantee delivery by email. Send your email address to [FranklinSquareCommunity@Gmail.com](mailto:FranklinSquareCommunity@Gmail.com)

# Our 2011 Accomplishments - We did this together!

## Improved Communication

- ◆ Hello Franklin Square (our newsletter) completed its first full season informing residents and building relationships.
  - ◆ Each month we delivered 400 newsletters and emailed 200 addresses.
- ◆ We created a brochure to market our neighborhood.
- ◆ We established a Facebook page. Check it out at [facebook.com/franklinsquarecommunity](http://facebook.com/franklinsquarecommunity)

## Improved the Environment in our Neighborhood

- ◆ With The Community Law Center, the City, and the Department of Parks and Recreation we established a Park Keeper for Franklin Square.
- ◆ We received 2 grants totaling \$6K and established a partnership with Civic Works (probably worth upwards of \$20K) to implement our plans for Sunflower Mountain and the Blank Lot Project on Carey Street. Although the project is only about 75% complete the progress has been remarkable and neighbors have noticed the stark contrast. We were part of the kickoff for the Power In Dirt initiative and have secured a water meter for the lot. I can't wait to plant Sunflower Mountain again in the spring!
- ◆ We mapped our neighborhood noting all the vacant houses and lots, we also located all the trees, tree pits, and storm drains.
- ◆ We partnered with Parks & People Foundation and the Watershed 263 council:
  - ◆ Helping to create signage for the BMPs. So folks will know what BMPs are and what they are supposed to look like.
  - ◆ selecting the Landscape architect and artists for the water quality/ art installation projects at Baltimore and Mount & Gilmor and Vine and worked with them to develop their designs. The projects will likely be completed next year.
  - ◆ documenting missing trees and assisting Parks and People with planting
- ◆ We assisted SW Cares, BlueWaterBaltimore, HollinsRoundhouse, and residents of Union Square with painting storm drains for the purpose of raising the awareness that trash in the street pollutes what we eat.
- ◆ Members of our association worked on the Red Line Station Area Advisory Committee for Harlem Park combined with the Poppleton Station. This group has successfully advocated for the needs of the community while balancing the desire for a transit line. Accomplishments to date include changing the alignment of the train from a surface line with a Portal on MLK to a tunnel under Fremont Avenue.

## Had Fun

- ◆ We helped plan and participated in multiple festivals and events throughout the year including:
  - ◆ Franklin Scare! - We received a grant of \$750 to hold Franklin Scare! This was a fantastic FREE event where there was pumpkin decorating, a costume contest, scarecrow building, 50 kids attended. We hope to make this an annual event.
  - ◆ The Franklin Square Family Fun Festival
  - ◆ The SoWeBo Festival
  - ◆ Roots Festival
  - ◆ National Night Out (August 2)- With the assistance of CPHA we spent the evening together as a community, in the Square. We made plans with Waverly Terrace to hold a combined event next year.
  - ◆ Franklin Square & Lafayette Square Birthday Party (April 30) – in conjunction with West Baltimore Squares
  - ◆ We also served on the SoWeBo 5K committee helping to bring this fantastic race to our neighborhood with over 200 participants.
- ◆ Residents from Franklin Square helped to produce and maintain the Farmers Market at the West Baltimore Marc Station to promote healthy lifestyle choices.

## And Developed Partnerships

- ◆ We helped to establish the Friends of West Baltimore Squares. An advocacy and activities group. This new group is focused on using our squares and other green spaces for positive and productive uses. Some of the activities include:
  - ◆ Neighborhood tours; Birthday parties for the squares; Creating an effective web presence and emailed newsletter
- ◆ We also helped to establish the West Baltimore Strategic Alliance in hopes that a unified voice for West Baltimore neighborhoods will help to promote equitable development.
- ◆ And we held the City accountable on many occasions including removing the dilapidated garage at Saratoga and Calhoun, cleaning the garage at 20 N Calhoun, and removing piles of trash (likely from evictions) in the 200 blk of Calhoun and Carey.

**Thank you to all of our partners and sponsors we could not do this without you.**

Be a part of next years accomplishments by coming to a meeting or working on a committee.

**Franklin Square Community Association | ...because you don't just live in your house...**



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