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**GENERAL MEETING:**

2ND TUESDAY/ MONTH

**FEBRUARY 8, 2011****6:30-8:00****26 N. FULTON AVE**BON SECOURS COMMUNITY SUPPORT  
CENTER

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**AGENDA**

- MTA Red Line (Lamont White)
- Red Line SAAC (Lisa Kramer)
- Friends of West Baltimore Parks (Eli Pousson)
- Fostering and Adoption of BCDSS children & SWCares (Michael Dannenberg)
- SOWEBO 5K, Kids Fun Run, and Health Fair (Ivan Leshinsky)
- WS263: Middle Branch Cleanup
- SAAC feedback (SAAC reps)

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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

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*"The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men."*  
~ Lyndon B. Johnson

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# Hello Franklin Square

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2011

## Happy 141st birthday 15th Amendment!

The Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits each government in the United States from denying a citizen the right to vote based on that citizen's "race, color, or previous condition of servitude" (i.e., slavery). It was ratified on February 3, 1870. On August 26, 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution became law, giving women the right to vote in the fall elections, including in the Presidential election.

*"To make democracy work, we must be a notion of participants, not simply observers. One who does not vote has no right to complain."*  
~ Louis L'Amour

**Be part of the process and make a difference in the world. Vote.**

[http://www.elections.state.md.us/voter\\_registration/index.html](http://www.elections.state.md.us/voter_registration/index.html)

## Red Line Updates

Lisa Kramer is the Red Line community liaison for our area. Her job is to keep the community informed and involved throughout construction of the Red Line. Meet her at this month's FSCA meeting on 2/8, and feel free to be in touch with her at [LKramer@BaltimoreRedline.com](mailto:LKramer@BaltimoreRedline.com)

Your SAAC representatives will also be at this month's FSCA meeting - come on out to hear the news! Some updates provided at a recent MTA meeting include the possibility of bus lines changing, improvements to the MARC station, and the 20-acre Maintenance Yard. Additionally, re-zoning may change our area. One question is, do we want the Harlem Park station to be a TOD (transit-oriented-development) area? That could mean big buildings. What do you think? How will that affect our historic neighborhoods? Your SAAC reps need your feedback to guide them.

The Red Line will bring jobs, however the community must be ready for them by having trained people and a communication network prepared to connect those people to the jobs. The City is seeking lists of people with skills and also training programs. Community members are encouraged to contact Kenya Asli at 410-396-4147.

## Cross your fingers

The FSCA turned in our grant applications to Parks & People and the Baltimore Community Foundation! We all owe a big thank you to our grant writing team: Iantha McCullum, Birchie Whitman, Edith Gilliard-Canty, Suz and Scott Kashnow. They put in a great deal of effort and time to this process. We will find out whether FSCA is awarded the grants in the spring.

- **St. Luke's is seeking mentors for the after-school program.** Contact Helen Keith 410-523-6272.
- The first annual **Sowebo Landmark 5k Run/Walk, Kids Fun Run, and Children's Health Fair** is set for October 2, 2011 starting at 9am. Come to the February FSCA meeting to hear all about it!
- **West Baltimore MARC - Landscaping & Community Art Workshop:** share hot cocoa, cookies, and all your creative ideas! Wednesday, Feb. 9; 6-8pm Lockerman Bundy Elementary, 301 N Pulaski Street  
Lamont White 410.947.3060 [LWhite8@mta.maryland.gov](mailto:LWhite8@mta.maryland.gov)
- **Friends of West Baltimore Parks:** next planning meeting Feb 19th to discuss next steps and begin planning some events for the spring. Contact Eli Pousson for more info: [pousson@baltimoreheritage.org](mailto:pousson@baltimoreheritage.org)
- **Roots Fest is coming to West Baltimore!** a festival of empowerment and arts. June 22-26, 2011  
<http://rootsfest2011.org> <http://alternateroots.org>
- **Middle Branch Park Clean Up** with WS263 and Parks & People. Help clean up the park and the water by foot and canoe on April 2nd. Come to the FSCA meeting or email [ScottKashnow@Gmail.com](mailto:ScottKashnow@Gmail.com) for more info.
- **Free Tax Preparation:** Sponsored by the Baltimore CASH Campaign and the United Way of Central Maryland. Call 410-234-8008 or visit [bmorefreetaxes.org](http://bmorefreetaxes.org)
- **Mayoral Fellowship:** Baltimore City Mayoral Fellowship is a ten week full-time placement in a Mayoral office or agency. Mayoral Fellows will complete their projects under the direction of senior level government officials and will be provided with immediate and direct feedback. They receive stipends and are placed in agencies based on their background, interests and the needs of the agencies and departments.  
<http://baltimorecity.gov/OfficeoftheMayor/MayoralInitiatives/MayoralFellowship.aspx>
- **Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism** seeks nominations for 2011 Service Awards to recognize individuals and groups that have made a tremendous contribution to Maryland through volunteer service. [www.GOSV.maryland.gov](http://www.GOSV.maryland.gov)
- **Help protect funding for Baltimore Schools.** Join the Baltimore Education Coalition for a Rally in Annapolis 7-8PM Feb 28 [abigailbreiseth@gmail.com](mailto:abigailbreiseth@gmail.com)

## Vacant Lot Management: Yvette Williams, 410-558-4508

Yvette Williams, a graduate student at UMBC, will be holding a focus group discussion to understand perspectives from residents about different ways in which vacant lots are managed or not managed in areas in or near your neighborhood.

A focus group is a group discussion where four (4) to five (5) persons are invited to join in the discussion. The group will be asked questions about management activities such as mowing, trash pickup, gardening, as well as other things they have seen or know about taking place at vacant lots.

Participation in a focus is voluntary, and your responses will be anonymous. Reports of the focus group discussions will not identify anyone by name. Ms. Williams will study the discussions to help identify resources and assistance that may be useful for your neighborhood.

If you would like to participate, please contact Ms. Williams at 410-558-4508 or [yvwill1@umbc.edu](mailto:yvwill1@umbc.edu). She will provide information on the date, time and place for the focus group discussion.

Thank you for your participation!



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