

GENERAL MEETING:

2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

MARCH 13, 2012

6:30-8:00

26 N. FULTON AVE

BON SECOURS COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTER

COME MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS!

AGENDA

- The Blank Lot Phase 2
- Housing and Rat Rubout
- Clean Community Contest
- 311 Accountability Project
- Clean up on Norris (3/31)
- Sakinah Linder | Construction Update
- Ryan Stroup
- Neighborhood Mapping Update
- Friends of Parks Presentation (3/29)

COMMUNITY CLEANUP

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

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 3, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2012

Working together

In the mid 1800s West Baltimore was the place to be. The squares were bustling with activity and surrounded by stately homes. Wealthy business owners and politicians were abundant. Times change, in the 1970s government clearly illustrated what they thought of the neighborhood by carving a trench to put in a highway so that people did not even need to pass through here. Things like this can be done when the residents and neighborhoods don't stand together. The highway to nowhere is actually a great success story in community organizing. It carries very little traffic for a highway because it is only a mile long. The reason it is underutilized is because the highway was stopped from being completed by constituents that would not allow the Gwynns Falls Park to be destroyed for the sake of a highway. It's unfortunate that it was not stopped sooner before it carved up our neighborhood but it was successfully stopped because people stood together.

Similar issues abound today, though some say not on as grand a scale. I disagree - our neighborhoods are deteriorating at an alarming rate through something called demolition by neglect. What happens is houses that are not lived in are not maintained and houses that are not maintained deteriorate fairly quickly into houses that need to be demolished. We must address the core issue that causes houses to be vacant. That issue is residents. We need to attract them. WE need to attract them. No one is going to do it for us and if left up to others it won't get done.

Over the last two years we have developed three community organizations that are regional in scale, the Friends of the West Baltimore Squares, The West Baltimore Strategic Alliance, and the Southwest Partnership.

These three organizations create a fabric that stretches

Check out our newest partnership

<https://www.facebook.com/southwestpartnership>

across neighborhoods ignoring the self-imposed boundaries that our issues also ignore. We reach across neighborhoods and help each other and in so doing we are all stronger. These three organizations give us the vehicles to create regional change. To address the issues that affects all of us. Find out how you can be a part of helping to make our neighborhoods great again.

Why work together? Imagine two dogs hooked to a sled pulling it through the snow. Now imagine those two dogs hooked to opposite ends of the sled. They don't go as far. They don't go anywhere. The two dogs pulling in the same direction can search all over for the right path and will eventually find it. They just keep pulling and searching together, while the two at odds never move and nothing will ever change. They will die in the same spot. Think about it.

If you want to work together call, email, come to a meeting, or find us on facebook. Be in touch. Help us pull the sled.

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



Free Tax Preparation! The Baltimore CASH Campaign wants working families to get all the credit they deserve. The “CASH” stands for “creating assets, savings and hope”. **Baltimore CASH provides free tax preparation by IRS certified staff!** Families who made under \$50,000 or singles who made under \$25,000 may be eligible for free tax prep services that can help you get back thousands in tax refunds. The Baltimore CASH Campaign can also make sure that you get your refund directly deposited into a savings account or purchase a U.S. Savings Bond. And if they qualify, families and individuals can claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other valuable tax credits. Starting January 1, 2012 appointments can be made by going to **bmorefreetaxes.org** or by calling **410-234-8008**.

The Sowebo Running & Walking Club of Baltimore is beginning a monthly group walk/run at Carroll Park! First Saturday of the month at 10am, starting April 7th. All are welcome - meet in the playground area at James and Bayard Streets. FREE!

Zumba at the Club | Franklin Square Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, 215 N Calhoun.
Thursday evenings starting March 1st, 2012 6:30-7:30pm
\$7/ Class | \$15/ 3 Classes | \$30/ 6 Classes

Money Power Day 2012 Saturday, March 10, 2012 from 9am – 3pm at the Baltimore City College High School located at 3220 The Alameda, Baltimore, MD 21218.
Families who come to Money Power Day will be armed with the resources and support needed to change their financial futures.
This FREE financial fitness fair includes:

40 on site financial exhibitors, Credit Café with Free credit report and financial experts on site, Workshops on small business, investing, homeownership and more, Youth Zone – featuring financial video games and activities for kids, and Free Tax Preparation (by appointment only www.bmorefreetaxes.org for income under \$50,000) www.moneypowerday.org

Grants 101: Finding & Writing Small Grants for Your Community or Organization

Monday, March 12th, 2012 6-8pm

Learn the skills needed to find and write small grants. Presented by AbbyCocke of the Baltimore City's Office of Sustainability. This is an Activate Your Inner Citizen: Workshop, which is part of CPHA's FREE leadership training series. Please register at CPHA's website: cphabaltimore.org/events/ or call 410-539-1369 x104.

Clean up on Norris | Saturday March 31st 9am-1pm

Come help us clean up Norris between Baltimore and Fayette. The City is providing us with a dumpster and we will provide all the tools just stop on by and bring your own gloves if you have them.

Presidential Primary April 3, 2012. Exercise your right to vote!

Not only does voting give us the opportunity to select our leaders it is also a gauge that is used to determine the engagement of a constituency and this is important because when resources are scarce, like they are now, the most engaged constituency gets the most resources. Voting not only determines our next president but it makes our neighborhood a nicer place to live.

Community Engagement Training at CPHA's Active Your Inner Citizen: University

Saturday, April 14th, 2012, 9am - Noon

University of Maryland BioPark, 801 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

Learn leadership skills you need to advocate on behalf of your community, organize your neighborhood for positive change, or lead a community organization. Register for this FREE series of leadership classes at CPHA's website: cphabaltimore.org/events/ or call 410-539-1369 x104.

Cabaret | Saturday April 28, 2012 9pm-1am | Pikesville Community Hall, 40 East Sudbrook Lane Pikesville, MD 21208

Citizens United for the 44th District, Inc. is holding a fundraiser to support the Franklin Square Family Fun Day (Del. Ruth Kirks festival) Tickets are \$25 prior to March 1st, \$30 after. Free setups, soda, chips, door prizes, and ice. Bring your own food and alcoholic beverages. Please contact Edith 410-462-2133 or Chris 410-462-2708 for more info and tickets.

Be a part of this 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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