



Farmington Village at Schramm's Crossing

www.farmingtononline.org

2003, Issue 1

Mark Your Calendar

HOA Board Meetings
3rd Tuesday of each month
Clubhouse - 7 p.m.

Newsletter Committee
Thursday after each Board Meeting
Clubhouse - 7 p.m.

Recreation Committee
Last Tuesday of each month
Clubhouse - 7 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt
April 12 - 10 a.m.
Clubhouse
Rain Date: April 13 - 2 p.m.

Spring Yard Sale
May 3 - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Rain Date: May 17

ACM Assumes Management Role

American Community Management (ACM) has replaced Comanco as managing agent for the Farmington Village at Schramm's Crossing Homeowners Association effective January 1, 2003. ACM will be providing property management services to the Board of Directors and residents of Farmington Village. Bringing on ACM to carry out the day-to-day operations does not change the leadership of our community. The Board of Directors will continue to make decisions on behalf of the Association such as the choice of various contracting services, reviewing expenditures, etc. ACM will be acting as advisors while conducting the "leg work" as directed by the Board of Directors.

ACM is a full service property

management firm that was established to assist community associations in the maintenance and operation of their community. Their main office is located in Columbia, Maryland and services community associations throughout the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area and Virginia. ACM employs

experienced community managers, accounting, maintenance, collection and administrative personnel who have the knowledge and experience to assist homeowners and the

Board of Directors with various community matters. Please do not hesitate to call on them for assistance with a matter pertaining to the Farmington Village Homeowners Association. We look forward to having them serve our community!



Winter Weather Driving Revisited.....

Over the last few years, many of us have forgotten what is like to have snow. But, so far it looks like we could be reacquainted with the white stuff many times this winter. As such, we thought it would be nice to remind you of some ways to "weather" the cold weather while driving.

- Winterize your vehicle early. Check the antifreeze, tire tread, and tire pressures. Ensure your heater and defroster work properly. Have a good ice scraper and keep the gas tank greater than half full.
- Carry a winter safety kit. It should contain a bright piece of cloth to tie to your antenna if you become stranded, warm clothing, flashlight w/ spare batteries,

non-perishable foods, a shovel, sand or non-clumping kitty litter, and jumper cables.

- When driving in hazardous conditions: Slow down and don't tailgate. If you don't have anti-lock brakes, pump your brakes with slow, steady pressure. Brake only when your car is in a straight position before a curve. Release the brake before you steer into a curve. Accelerate only after you decrease the steering angle to exit the curve.

For this and other winter driving information, see Car Talk's Official Winter Driving Tips web site at <http://cartalk.cars.com/Info/WinterDriving>. Please have a safe and enjoyable winter.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bill Kayser



I am sure by now you are aware that the board has elected to use the services of a different management company, American Community Management. Everyone should have received a letter from the new company identifying contact persons, phone numbers, etc. There are no changes in procedures, simply a change of names, faces, and phone numbers. The board worked very hard to come up with this decision, conducting interviews with several companies, including Comanco. After many hours of interviews and discussion, the board felt it was in the best interest of the community to make this change at this time. We ask your support in giving American Community Management an opportunity to show their abilities.

The board has also renewed the lawn and pool company's contracts for another year. We have executed these contracts to enhance service to the community and we were able to negotiate at a reduced rate.

Tim Edwards, Second Vice President, has tendered his resignation. With the added responsibility of a new home, new baby and additional responsibility on his job he felt he could not dedicate the time necessary to be a board member. His resignation will create an opportunity for another homeowner to fill this position. Marlyn Landin has agreed to finish out Tim's term on the board. She has been an active member of the community, and the board appreciates her accepting this responsibility.

As we come to the end of the calendar year 2002, I would like to thank all the many people who have dedicated their time and talents to serve Farmington Village. This year of 2002 has been an especially good year for our community with many more people stepping forward to serve. I wish to take this time to thank every one for their support and wish all a very happy holiday season.



Recreational Committee

By Aimee Kelly

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Participating families of Farmington Village's 3rd Annual Fall Festival enjoyed themselves with scarecrow making, hayrides around the neighborhood, crafts and a costume contest. All of the kids (and even some adults) arrived in scary, original, funny and pretty costumes...it was close to impossible to choose winners. Jello the clown arrived later in the party and entertained the kids with games and balloons. Thanks to the many parents who helped the Recreation Committee with setup, organization and cleanup and special thanks to the kids (and parents) for your enthusiasm! As always comments, suggestions and ideas are welcome by the Recreation Committee. It is our goal to make the neighborhood parties unique and fun for all ages.

Wow!! What an excellent way to spend a day during the Christmas Season...in the hustle and bustle of the Big Apple. Thirty-one Farmington Villagers (and/or friends of Villagers) braved the cold to enjoy the sights and sounds of New York City. Some rushed around town doing some Christmas shopping, while others strolled around Rockefeller Square and the ice rink and admired the infamous windows of Saks Fifth Ave. Many of us visited Ground Zero, with a heavy heart, to pay tribute to the countless Volunteers, Rescue Workers, Firemen and Policemen of 9/11 and to remember the men and women that fell victim to our Nation's worst tragedy. The Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall was just that. The performance began with a 3-dimensional ride with Santa on his sleigh bringing the audience into New York City. The Rockettes were outstanding and as always in sync...just amazing. The Spectacular Finale was a live Nativity with camels, donkeys and sheep. Truly breathe taking!

Here are a couple events that our committee is preparing for in the coming months.

Mr. E. Bunny is scheduled to "hop" over to the Farmington Village Clubhouse on Saturday, April 12th at 10 am (Rain date is Sunday April, 13th at 2 pm). Be sure to bring your baskets as there will be eggs to hunt for, goodies to munch on and crafts to make.

Farmington Village's Spring Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday May 3rd from 8-12...rain date is Saturday 5/17. What a great reason to start spring cleaning and an excellent excuse to get rid of whatever that thing is your mother-in-law gave you for Christmas!



Architectural Review Committee

By Charlie Laster

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I would like to thank everyone who has been patient and taken the time to submit the proper application for improvements to their homes. For those who are planning a project in the future, or are new to the community, please note the following when applying to the Architectural Review Committee:

- Call ACM to request an application.
- Check the Residential Design Guidelines before applying. If you do not have a copy you should contact the title company that handled your settlement or visit the Documents page on our website.
- Provide a detail drawing of what is requested; to include material, color, and location of the site work.
- Provide a copy of the plat. Applications cannot be considered without a copy.
- Provide a phone number in the event we need to reach you during the approval process.
- Sign and date your application.
- Send your application certified or registered mail.

As a reminder, please do not start any work until you have the final approval from the ARC committee. Furthermore, be aware that the homeowner is responsible for applying for any permits that are required by the county, and that there is a \$75.00 processing fee for work that has already been done without prior ap-

proval. The HOA board has instructed the management company to pursue any violations and have them corrected.

The Association has received many calls in reference to signs being posted in yards, and we would like to remind you that signs advertising work being done are not to be placed in yards. Also, it has been noted that several homes only cleared part of their sidewalk after the recent snow. Be courteous and shovel all walkways in front of your residence. Those who have a corner lot should also clear the side as well.

Projects have slowed since the end of August. We have received 33 applications the past 4 months. The following is a break down of the requests.

Decks – 10	Fences – 4	Sheds—6
Storm Doors – 3	Patios – 5	Landscaping – 1

I would like to thank all the members for the time and hard work they have given to the committee. If anyone would like to become a member, just come to any of our monthly meetings - we meet at the Clubhouse the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. In the event the meeting is changed we try to put that information on our website.

Even though the last home is under construction there are many homes, which have yet to proceed with improvements. We expect to see many applications this spring for these projects. Good luck with yours!



Traffic Committee

By Pam Pulley

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A little over a year ago, our group, known as the traffic committee, was officially established by the board. The committee began investigating ways in which we could curb the growing problem of speeding vehicles in our neighborhood, which, of course, poses a great risk to everyone, especially the children in the community. Our activities, which have been made public in past newsletters and discussed during some of our public community meetings, have achieved success. Through close association with Anne Arundel County, we have determined that the best way to reduce the speeding through our streets, while still maintaining the beauty of our

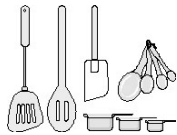
neighborhood, is through the addition of medians at certain points on the entry and exit roads, and primarily on Bell Tower Crossing. The county concurs, and has agreed to install temporary medians at no cost to the community. We will use these temporary medians as a source of information to determine the best location for the final medians, which the county will install in early Spring, just as our kids are returning to the outdoors to play. We are excited about the opportunity to improve the safety of our community, and will certainly keep everyone informed on our progress through the newsletter and our continued public meetings.



ACM Contact Information:

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**TERRIFIC TOASTED
CINNAMON ROLLS**

INGREDIENTS

- 1 8-Ounce Can Refrigerated Crescent Rolls
- 1/4 Cup Brown Sugar
- 2 Tablespoons Cinnamon
- 1/4 Cup Raisins

DIRECTIONS

1. Unroll dough, separating into 8 triangles, and place on lightly greased cookie sheets.
2. In a small bowl, mix together sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle on each dough shape.
3. Top with raisins, and roll up into loose crescents or round shapes. Pinch shut.
4. Bake at 375 degrees for 12 minutes, or until toasty brown.

Community Concern

This past holiday season, many residents of our community had holiday decorations stolen from their home. While this may seem to be a petty issue, this is not the first act of vandalism and crime to occur in our community. Within the last year our community pool and clubhouse have been vandalized, flags have been stolen off flagpoles, our tennis courts have been broken into, cars have been stolen, trees in common areas have been driven over, and even some of our homes have been broken into. As you can see, our neighborhood is not immune to crime.

The growing acts of crime in our community should be a concern to each and every one of us. But, what can we do?

Become involved. If you see suspicious behavior in the community, don't wait for someone else to do something - report it to the police. Get to know your neighbors and learn the habits of the neighborhood. Slow down and take notice of things as you are walking or driving around. That way you may be more likely to notice if something wrong is happening.

Watch our children. As parents, we don't want our children to be involved in undesirable behavior. Know what your kids are up to and help to enforce not only the laws, but the rules and norms of our community.

Develop a neighborhood watch program. Local police will be happy to meet with us to develop a watch program. If you are interested in forming a community watch program please contact any board member online at www.farmingtononline.org or contact American Community Management.

Let's work to keep Farmington Village a great place to live.

SCARY HAPPENINGS ON RED WING COURT

While such terms as the *Headless Horseman*, *Count Dracula*, *Peeking Ghosts*, and *The Mummy* may conjure up images of frightening and scary creatures, to residents of Red Wing Court they are some favorite pumpkin creations entered in last year's Halloween carving contest.

Residents of Farmington Village since late 1999, Joe and Kelly Bodnar grew up in the local area and have long enjoyed Halloween. As a matter of fact, it is one of their favorite holidays. Their first year here, they decided to have a pumpkin-carving contest;

an idea that came from the egg-decorating contests Kelly's family used to have. They set up one table with about five pumpkins carved by different members of their family and invited trick-or-treaters, parents, friends, and neighbors to vote for their favorite carving. Last year they had seven pumpkins entered, and this year they had eight pumpkins displayed on three tables for voters to pick from. Each year has shown an increase in votes - this year they had 177 votes. The contest has turned into a friendly contest between the Bodnar family members with the winner re-

ceiving the privilege of having bragging rights for the year to come. This year's winner was the *Drunk Pumpkin* (Joe's first win) over the *Headless Horseman* (by a neck).



So when you're out next Halloween, be sure to look for the Bodnar's pumpkin-carving contest and cast your vote.