



Farmington Village at Schramm's Crossing

www.farmingtononline.org

2003, Issue 2

May 20th—Annual Meeting

The Farmington Village community annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2003, at 7:00 PM at the clubhouse. This is a very important general meeting and all homeowners are encouraged to attend. Many topics of importance to the community will be addressed.

Two of the board of director positions need to be filled and elections will take place to fill those positions. This meeting will also give you a chance to meet your neighbors, representatives of ACM (our new management company), committee representatives, and board members.

Mark your calendars and set aside a couple hours to come out and get involved in the community.

Upcoming Events

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

4th 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. - 12 p.m.
Rain Date: May 17

Koch Development Update

We previously reported that Mr. Koch is developing additional property along Waterford Rd. The Board of Directors has received a proposal from Mr. Koch to offer our community a settlement. Over the next few months the board will be discussing this issue at its regular board meetings. These meetings are open to all residents and they are encouraged to attend and discuss these issues.

Some Words From Our Treasurer . . .

The last two months of 2002 were a busy time for the Board of Directors. One of the key responsibilities of the Board is to negotiate contracts with vendors who provide key services to the community. Achieving savings in this area is very important to the board's long term objective of providing high quality services to the community and building reserve funds for major repairs while keeping the Homeowners' Association assessments (dues) as low as possible. The community's major vendors include the management, pool, and landscaping companies, and we spend over \$100,000 each year in these areas combined. This significant investment requires attention and aggressive management. Through the months of November and December, the Board solicited bids and reviewed proposed contracts in each of these key areas.

In the course of evaluating bids and interviewing vendors, the board was able to lower the costs of these services by over \$15,000 per year. These savings were achieved through aggressive negotiations, implementation of

multi-year contracts (with escape clauses), and selection of reasonably priced vendors. These savings will eliminate a deficit spending situation created by the developer where the cost of services and required savings (reserves) actually exceeded the income from assessments (dues); a situation that would have ultimately resulted in either an increase in assessments or an inappropriate reduction of reserves, both of which are undesirable. Reserve funds are very important so that unplanned repairs and refurbishments can be accomplished without borrowing funds or raising assessments. Obviously, the Board members also want to keep assessments as low as possible.

In 2003, the Board plans to take further steps to make sure that our reserve accounts do not accumulate money either too slowly or too quickly. By studying our reserve process, we can optimize savings and make sure that we reserve only enough money to meet our needs.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bill Kayser



This will probably be my last comment as the president of Farmington Village HOA as my term of office will end in May at our annual meeting. To say it has been challenging would be to say the least. My career

experience consisted of 26 years in commercial real estate at all levels. It is my hope that as your president I have brought some of that knowledge and experience to our community.

I encourage others with an interest in seeing constructive changes taking place in Farmington Village to submit their resumes to serve on the board. There will be two vacancies again this May. As the expression goes, "If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem." If you feel changes of any kind are in order for the betterment of our community, then get on board and help make those changes a reality.

There are many active and effective committees in the community. If you do not feel you have the talent or the time to dedicate yourself to becoming a board member, I strongly suggest you consider one of the many active committees. Your participation will result in numerous benefits to the community and to you personally.

This has been a record-setting winter. For my part, and on behalf of the board, I apologize for the confusion regarding the snow removal of the townhome roads in a timely fashion. For what it is worth today, the problem has been resolved.

I wish to thank the many homeowners who have given me their support and words of encouragement. I strongly encourage you to do the same for the new president. It is an awesome responsibility requiring much time and commitment.

It's that time of year again Villagers. The Pool Committee is in the process of enlisting volunteers to assist in keeping the Pool up to top-notch quality...we deserve nothing less. The Pool Committee is responsible for reporting any misconduct (by lifeguards or residents), making sure that the pool rules are followed and enforced, and handling resident's suggestions and concerns. The Pool Committee also assists in the Annual Pool Party sponsored by the Recreation Committee. Pool Rules and Guidelines for Summer 2003 are being currently being revised and will be mailed to each and every homeowner once finalized and approved by the



Architectural Review Committee

By Charlie Laster
arc@farmingtononline.org

As the cold days of winter appear to be behind us, many homeowners are venturing out to begin those long awaited construction projects. Before you begin your project, please take a moment to ensure that you are in compliance with our community's architectural guidelines. 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 (410-997-7767) to request an application or download the form from our web site.
- Provide a detail drawing of the project; to include color, material, etc.
- Submit a copy of the plat.
- Be sure to sign and date the application.

Send in your application as soon as you know what you want to do. We only meet once a month, and if your application is received the day after our meeting it will be the next month before we review it.

The ARC committee meets on the first Tuesday of every month to approve applications. This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome to attend.

Do not start any work until you have approval back from the ARC committee. There is a \$75.00 processing fee due with any application requesting approval for modifications or improvements already made.

It is also a good ideal to check the Residential Design Guidelines before applying. Every homeowner should have received a copy during the settlement on their house. You can also obtain a copy of the covenants and guidelines from our web site.

Finally, we are always looking for new members to the ARC committee. If you can spare a few hours a month we would like to have you.

Pool Committee

By Aimee Kelly
pool@farmingtononline.org



Board. We, as a neighborhood, paid a lot for the Pool to be built and pay a lot for it to be maintained and we want it to be enjoyable for everyone. If you are interested in becoming a part of this committee please contact Aimee Kelly at 443-770-0198.



Recreation Committee

By Aimee Kelly
recreation@farmingtononline.org

The Recreation Committee has been busy over the winter, so let's get right to it.

And the winners are.... Lloyd and Paula Ellison of 8202 Green Ice Drive and Craig and Brenda Hewitt of 8215 Black Diamond. Congratulations to the Ellison's and the Hewitt's for having the neighborhoods best decorated houses' at Christmas. A gift certificate to Home Depot was given to each family.

Easter Egg Hunt: Pull out those Easter baskets and get ready for Farmington Village's 4th Annual Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12th at the Clubhouse (rain date is Sunday, April 13th at 2 pm). We'll start out with donuts and juice. The kids will first be put into age groups (0-2, 3-6, 7-10) and then the "The Hunt" will begin. All eggs will be hidden outside and filled with treats. Prizes will be given to those who find the eggs with coins in them. After the egg hunt, the Easter Bunny will be available to sit with the kids for pictures (parents don't forget your cameras).

Spring Yard Sale: The date is Saturday, May 3rd from 8-12pm (rain date is Saturday, May 17th). The Yard Sale will be advertised by signs and in the Pennysaver. The Recreation Committee has arranged for the Salvation Army to have a truck parked in the clubhouse parking lot from 12-1pm for anyone interested in donating the items that did not sell.

The Maryland legislature has recently approved Senate Bill 455, which could impact our community. This bill enables local police to place speed cameras in local communities and school zones. These cameras work on the same lines as the Red Light Cameras and are calibrated to within 10 miles of the posted speed for that particular area. Any vehicle recorded going over the speed limit plus the 10 mile calibrated speed will have a citation mailed to the owner of the vehicle. Howard County, who is currently testing the speed cameras, has found a substantial number of vehicles speeding through the designated school zones. This bill was supported by Maryland Association of Counties (MACo), Anne Arundel County, Howard County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County Police Departments as well as a number of other law enforcement agencies.

Now that the weather has broken, work will soon begin on the temporary traffic islands. Anne Arundel County Traffic Engineers will be installing them at the front entrance on Schramm's Crossing and at the rear entrance on North Star. These temporary deviators will be in place for at least 90 days to test their effectiveness. After 90 days, the traffic committee will conduct a study in conjunction with Anne

4th Annual Summer Party: A date has been chosen! Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 16th from 6-10pm for Farmington Villages 4th Annual Summer Party. Look for details in July's newsletter and flyers.

Now that construction is nearly complete, many people have been inquiring about a **Community Directory**. We are looking to spearhead this project. It is understood that privacy is of the utmost priority for some families; please know that your privacy will be respected, and you are not required to have certain (or any information) included in the Directory if you so choose (this will be an option on the application.) What better way to keep in touch with your new and old neighbors? Keep an eye out in your mailbox for a flyer and application.

Thank you to those who completed the Recreation Committee surveys. The survey's have been reviewed by the Recreation Committee and we are excited to announce that two new events are in the planning stages.

On Friday, July 4th at 11am we will kickoff our **1st Bike Parade**. Kids from 0-10 years of age are encouraged to show off their American Pride and Spirit by decorating their wagon, scooters, strollers and bicycles. A prize per age group (0-2, 3-6, 7-0) will be awarded for the best decorated. Plans are still in the works and as always your ideas and suggestions are always welcome by the Recreation Committee.

The second event the Recreation Committee is working on as a result of it's popularity on the survey is an **Adult Crab Feast (Surf n' Turf)**. This event may take place on a Saturday evening in August or September. Please call Aimee Kelly at 443-770-0198 if this is something that you are interested in and if you may be able to help. Hopefully this is an event that we can look forward to each year.

Traffic Committee

By Pam Pulley
traffic@farmingtononline.org



Arundel County Police Dept. and Traffic Engineers. If the traffic committee finds that they help reduce the speeding in our community, then the committee will present their findings to the Farmington Board of Directors for a decision on installing permanent traffic deviators. These deviators will either be landscape paving bricks or landscape flower and shrub beds.

As spring approaches, we as residents of Farmington Village need to remember that nice weather brings out families, children and their pets. Speed has been a constant problem in our community as the volume of traffic through our community increases. A number of vehicles have been violating the 25 M.P.H. speed limit that is posted in our community. Please remind your family members, friends and relatives to be aware of the posted speed limit and to abide by it. A few minutes longer to get home after a long day is worth the life of our children, pets and loved ones.



Spring is here! And you know what that means... time to tidy up the yard after a long winter's nap. The least favorite job in the

garden is spring cleanup – but, alas, it needs to be done – and the earlier the better.

- Start with clearing up all the dead wood out of trees and shrubs. Remove all dead, damaged and broken branches.
- Remove dead perennials. Dead and decaying foliage provides a great breeding ground for pests and various diseases.
- Remove winter mulch in the spring after the ground thaws to avoid mildew and other fungus diseases.
- “Prickling” or lightly turning the soil in the spring helps to flush out over-wintering pests that like to make homes and lay eggs below the soil surface. Both slugs and white grubs will often surface, and can be removed manually.
- If a major bed redo is planned, dig out everything and begin the first major soil turning. Amend the soil as needed before planting new plants.
- Lawns can be aerated in the spring. Aeration will increase oxygen, nutrient, and moisture penetration to the roots. This improves the health of the lawn and reduces the incidence of pests such as weeds, insects, and diseases. Thatching, the removal of dead grass buildup on the lawn, can be done in the spring as well. Now is also a good time to re-seed the lawn.

Thanks to all the pet owners who are cleaning up after pets in your yards and throughout the neighborhood, and walking them leashed. With summer coming, a lot of pet owners may want their animals to get some fresh air and exercise in fenced backyards. Please be advised of the following regarding pet noise and Anne Arundel County Animal Control fine increases for pet-related violations:

- Article 12 Section 9-104: It is unlawful for a person who owns, keeps, or has possession of an animal to permit the animal to disturb the quiet of a person or neighborhood.
- Title 10 Penalty: Anyone violating sections of Article 12 may be subject to a fine not less than \$50.00 and up to \$500.00. (this is an increase!)

The Animal Control phone number for questions, adoptions, complaints, or a pamphlet containing laws is: 410-222-8900.



Around the Community



I have a 6 year old son who may be attending Solley Elementary School (First Grade) this September, but I need a caring (preferably Christian) to watch him. Are there any interested persons that are able to care for him until the bus comes? Please contact Janet at 410-439-9780. Thank You and God Bless!



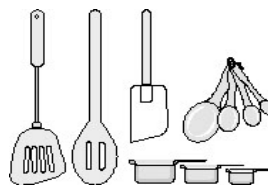
Congratulations go out to Cheri & Mark of Fanfair Lane on the birth of their son Andrew Michael. Andrew was born on Nov 1, 2002, weighed in at 8lbs, 11ozs, and was 20 1/2 long. Matthew, his big brother, is very proud.



The Board of Directors would like to thank Chris and Bob Burrows of Wheyfield Ct. for their donation of the American Flag in memory of Chris' father Mr. Joseph J. Marsielia.



Book Club: Brand new Farmington Village Book Club. Meets once a month at 7pm. Location: 8124 Jade Crossing Court. This book club will meet once a month, depending on the size of the book, for a relaxing evening with a group of people who have read a designated book. Meeting place will rotate each month, so everyone shares the responsibility. We will establish the rules/guidelines at the first meeting. If you are interested, please call Linda at 410-360-8568.



*From
Denny's
Kitchen.....*

FINGER JELLO

Fun way to eat jello...with your hands! Use cookie cutters to make different shapes!

Ingredients:

- 5 pkgs Knox gelatin2
- 4 pkgs flavored Jello

Directions:

Soften the Knox gelatin in 2.5 cups of water. Boil two cups of water and add to the mixture. Stir in the flavored Jello until dissolved. Refrigerate until solid. Keep leftovers in the fridge.