



Farmington Village at Schramm's Crossing

www.farmingtononline.org



Fall 2004

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No Annexation for Cobblestone

In mid-September, our lawyer advised the **Annexation Committee** that Koch Homes has withdrawn their request to annex their new **Cobblestone** community into Farmington Village.

Koch will still be developing the property along Waterford Road; intended to be a community of forty-three homes. The Cobblestone community will not be age restricted as previously proposed. Koch Homes plans ground-breaking in the Spring of 2005, and expects homes to sell for between \$500,000 and \$800,000 per home. There will be one main entrance for Cobblestone off Waterford Road with no entrances into the Farmington Village Community.

In light of this action, Cobblestone will be an independent community and will not be a part of Farmington Village.



Farmington Village residents, representing 16 households, met September 20th to organize an active **Neighborhood Watch**. Within 90 minutes, we learned about and made plans for immediate and future steps we can take for a safer community.

In short, a Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that teaches residents techniques to reduce the risk of being victimized at home and in public, and trains citizens on the importance of recognizing suspicious activities and how to report them. Furthermore, it teaches participants how to make their homes more secure, and allows neighbors to get to know each other and their routines so that any out of place activity can be reported and investigated.

Conversely, a Neighborhood Watch is not a vigilante force working outside the normal procedures of law enforcement, or a program designed for participants to take personal risks to prevent crime. Neither is there a 100% guarantee that crime will not occur in our neighborhood if such a program exists.

Such a program does have many potential benefits:

- *Reduces the incidence and fear of crime*, distrust and suspicion between neighbors, as well as fear and negative perception of police.

- *Increases property values* by helping enforce community maintenance codes, heightening security, makes the community more desirable, Increases neighborhood pride.
- *Enhances quality of life issues* by providing a safer place to live, work, and play, reducing family and personal stress, and increasing crime prevention knowledge and awareness.
- *Provides a venue for community involvement* by supporting the President's Initiative for Homeland Security.

AWARENESS is our immediate focus. Through newsletters, flyers, FV website, signage and word-of-mouth, this group's immediate goal is to educate and inform. Future discussions will focus on entrance and exit points of the neighborhood, wooded areas, trends in suspicious activity, and joining the local police in a community watch program.

We welcome you to join us at our next meeting Monday, October 11, 2004, at 7:00 p.m., at the clubhouse. Updates will be given on signage, community crime statistics, AWARENESS flyers, police department community programs, a safety plan for the upcoming Halloween holiday, and much more. We look forward to seeing you there.

EARLY SCHRAMM FARM HISTORY

This is the third in a series of articles about Schramm Farm history and history of the surrounding area. The editors are grateful to Emma Schramm and her family for agreeing to interviews and for providing materials for these articles. Keep an eye out for continuing articles describing the farm, the interesting and varied sources of income over the years on this land, and finally the later farm that some local Pasadena residents still remember.

Schramm Farm Fires: There have been two major fires on the Schramm Farm. The first fire was in 1911. Early one morning, the Schramm family awoke to see pieces of burning material flying past their windows. The stable was on fire. Louis Schramm managed to get the animals out, and one of the boys ran to the closest telephone in a local store to telephone the Fire Department. One of the girls rang the dinner bell for help, but no one came. Just as the stable was in a complete blaze, a hard shower of rain came, and put the fire out. Finally, the Fire Department came, but that only consisted of a barrel of water on a wagon. Fire fighting, as everyone knows, is very different today.

The second fire, in 1960, started in the Turkey House. The Schramms called the Powhatan Beach Volunteer Fire Company and within a few minutes, they were there. Many other fire departments arrived in a very short time and quickly had the fire under control. The fire did a great deal of damage to the building, and 1500 turkey poults (young turkeys) suffocated, but the Schramms will be forever thankful to all the volunteer fire companies for a job well done.

Fire Prevention Week - October 3-9, 2004: The Schramms didn't have the modern technology that we have now to

prevent and fight fires. We have sprinklers and smoke alarms in our Farmington Village homes and modern firefighting equipment in Pasadena. It has been said that smoke alarms are the greatest safety success story of the 20th century, but they must be working properly! Take the opportunity this Fire Prevention Week to take some important steps for the safety of you and your family.

- Have fire drills. School fire drills became mandatory when there was a school fire resulting in a large death toll. Make drills mandatory in your home. It has been shown that even very young children can remember simple rules and procedures if drills are practiced. Practice alternate exits and make sure kids recognize the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Repair and replace missing ceiling tiles in suspended ceilings. Openings may delay the response of smoke detectors.

- Change batteries in your smoke alarms (or use the Spring Forward and Fall Back times to change batteries); don't forget to test them!

These aren't the only safety prevention rules, so find out more on the web and from your local fire fighters. A great resource is: <http://www.firesafety.gov/>.



Traffic Committee

By Pam Pulley

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In July, the community meet and voted to have the temporary islands on North Star and Schramm's Crossing removed and not made permanent. Anne Arundel County Dept. of Engineering has been notified and advised to remove the temporary islands. They have scheduled them to be removed in the near future.

Speeding throughout the community continues to be a problem. Anne Arundel County Police Dept. has advised residents to get the license tag of vehicles speeding in our community and report them to the local department. The owner of the vehicle will receive a letter stating that the vehicle was seen speeding in the community and will receive a warning.

In other news, the county and the state highway department are working together to examine the Catherine Ave and Route 100 exit lanes. Signs have been erected stating that the right lane on Catherine Ave is for through traffic, while the left lane is a turn lane into Schramm's Crossing. Both lanes exiting off Route 100 onto Catherine Ave helps move traffic off Route 100 more quickly to eliminate backups onto Route 100.

Recently the community has experienced a number of vandalism incidents. If you witness anything or have any information on any of the recent incidents, please contact Anne Arundel County Police Dept. at 410-222- 8610. The police dept. will continue to monitor the situation and will be increasing patrols in our community.

Our **2nd Annual Bike Parade** went off without a hitch. Many thanks to the creative and patriotic people who participated. All bikes, strollers, wagons & scooters were patriotically decorated - great job kids (& parents!) The bike parade judges chose the following as some of the most patriotic:

0-3 years: Clancy Kelly, Jessica Zimmermann, Joanna Puglisi

4-5 years: Tyler Zimmermann, Daria Breslin, Mason Grim

6-9 years: Megan Buczynski, Anthony Puglisi, Amanda Betag

10-12 years: Maddie Buczynski, Kayla White, Nicole

The weather held out for the **5th Annual Pool Party**. The night turned out to be almost perfect. As the latest tunes were played by DJ Jay Sweitzer of Shaggy Entertainment, Villagers enjoyed great food catered by Beefalo Bob's. Kids were everywhere - singing karaoke, swimming, gobbling the all-you-can-eat snoballs (from returning Pasadena vendor Kavern) or playing the watermelon game (way to go Girls!). Thanks to the Koester and Emirch families for donating their tents in case the threatening skies opened up. Kudos to all that stayed to help clean up - it makes a difference! And a final thank you to Mr. Gary Koch for donating \$500 toward the party; a very generous gift.

As always the Recreation Committee is open to comments and suggestions regarding the Pool Party as well as the other events. The Committee has lost 2 volunteers, which puts the number of volunteers at 3. We hope to continue hosting the parties and events



Recreation Committee

By Aimee Kelly
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and would love to add more things as the kids seem to really enjoy them, but with 3 volunteers it makes it hard. The meetings are only once a month (maybe an hour long) - not alot of time. We welcome any volunteers!

At the **2nd Annual Adult CrabFeast** there were a lot of returning Villagers and some new faces. Hands down the crabs were great tasting, the tunes were rockin' and the pool was cool. Thanks to all that helped with setup, and to everyone (just about all attendees) that helped cleanup. Kudos again to the Koester and Emirch families for letting us use their tents.

Calling all Ghouls & Goblins. The Farmington Village **5th Annual Fall Fest** will be held at the Clubhouse on Saturday, October 23rd at 1 pm (rain date is Sunday 10/24 1pm). Join us for crafts, hayrides, scarecrow making and a costume contest with prizes. Get those creative juices flowing and work on those costumes. "Scare you there!"

Big Sister Taylor and Big Brother Grant are thrilled to announce the newest addition to their family, **Chase Patrick Emory** born on January 2. Chase weighed 8lbs 4 oz and was 20.5 inches long. The proud parents are Ray & Michele of Bell Tower Crossing.

The Rec Committee would like to thank Lori Fish for her participation & hard work on the Committee.

Pool/Clubhouse Committee

By Aimee Kelly



The Pool Committee will be meeting throughout the year, please look to the website for meeting dates and times.

Some of you may have noticed that our Clubhouse and Gatehouse on Catherine Ave. are in desperate need of a little TLC. We have some exciting news ... in the very near future they will both be receiving a good washing, repairs, and a fresh coat of paint inside and out. Some vandalism has taken place at the Gatehouse, although minor ... remember if you see suspicious activity within our neighborhood please call the police. After nearly 6 years of wear and tear it's about time. Take a good look at the new changes!



Architectural Review Committee

By Bob Marlowe

The ARC has been working very hard to help maintain the appearance of our community. It is the responsibility of the ARC to review every application submitted by residents for exterior changes or improvements to each resident's property. The ARC has reviewed over fifty applications in the last three months.

This committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month. The meetings start at 7 p.m. and takes place at the Community Clubhouse. Keep your neighborhood a great place to live by volunteering for this committee.

Technology Update

Our last newsletter article on Wireless Network Security stressed the importance of protecting wireless networks from would-be hackers. Most people don't realize that when they logon to the net, they are actually signing in to a worldwide network. And in doing so, expose themselves to viruses and hackers.

These viruses and hackers can destroy information on your computer, or use their access to capture information you wouldn't want them to see (banking information, passwords, personal identification, etc...). The best way to protect yourself while on line is to build a digital wall (personal firewall) between your computer and the hackers that might try to use it.

There is a growing list of software manufacturers producing personal firewall software. The majority of them all have three important things in common. They Allow, Block, and Ask.

1. In the Allow function of the firewall software, what is known as "safe" data transfers are allowed. Examples of safe data are your everyday software uses (Outlook, Outlook Express, Internet Explorer, and Netscape navigator).
2. In the Blocking function, the software blocks transfers that are known or suspected to be dangerous to your system.
3. In the Ask function, the firewall will ask you to confirm if questionable data should be accepted or not. Most programs will remember your response so you will not have to respond again.

Some of the most popular fire walls are produced by McAfee Security, Symantec, Microsoft, Sygate, and Zone Labs. Each product is priced differently, and contains different levels of protection. I would recommend you check them out to determine, which best fits your needs.

www.farmingtononline.org Gets a New Look (and a Message Board)

Many of you have probably already noticed the new look of our Farmington Village web site which appeared in early September. The Newsletter Committee would like to thank Brad Leverrett for his work in taking our web site to a higher level of professionalism. Not only is the site more visually appealing and easier to navigate, it now includes a Message Board where visitors can view and post messages of interest to the community.

Currently, anyone can participate in the Message Board postings as a *Guest* (and many users have been doing just that); however, registered users have additional capabilities such as Forum and Topic Subscriptions that provide you email notification of new postings of interest to you, as well as your own private control panel where you can change how the board looks and feels.

Registering is easy. Here's how:

- Click **Message Board** on the site's Home page.
- Click **Register**. A registration form appears.
- Enter a valid username, password, and email address in the required text boxes.
- Read the Terms of Service agreement and select the **I Agree** checkbox.
- Click **Submit My Registration**.

Once you have registered and logged in, you will have access to your personal messenger and your control panel.

For additional information on registering, as well as the many other features the Farmington Village Message Board has to offer, click the **Help** button.

COMMUNITY MEETING SCHEDULES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

HOA Board Meetings

3rd Tuesday of each month
Clubhouse, 7 p.m.

ARC Committee

1st 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.

Pool Committee

July 16th and August 18th
Clubhouse, 7 p.m.

5th Annual FV Fall Fest

Saturday, October 23rd
(Rain Date: Sunday, October 24th)
Clubhouse, 1 p.m.

New York City Trip

(Radio City Christmas Spectacular)
Friday, December 3rd

