

# Franklin News



Franklin Area Citizens Association ☉ Summer 2009 ☉ [www.franklinarea.org](http://www.franklinarea.org)

## Notes from the President

Dear Franklin Area Neighbors:

The CENTENNIAL Celebration was a great success. Thank you for helping to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our delightful urban forest neighborhood on May 16th. We were privileged to have three elected local officials, State Senator Janet Howell, Delegate Margaret Vanderhye and Supervisor John Foust, speak and join the parade as well as the celebration. To commemorate our centennial the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors passed a Resolution that was presented by Supervisor Foust. It states... that **“the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of all residents of Fairfax County, does hereby pay homage to Franklin Area for its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, historic significance and idyllic setting.”** The Resolution will be hung in Vinson Hall, where because of the great hospitality of Vincent Hall, it has become the heart of the Franklin Area.

As a memento of the centennial, you may wish to purchase a supply of the beautiful Franklin Area Centennial stamps, illustrated below, which have been created by Dwight Marsh. They can be seen and purchased on our website at [www.franklinarea.org](http://www.franklinarea.org).



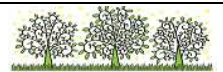
Franklin Area Centennial Stamp

A very special vote of appreciation goes out to Julia and Bob Nelson and all of the volunteers who worked so hard to make the celebration a great success. For those who missed reading our resident historian Sue Neil's outstanding history of the Franklin Area, it is posted on our web site for your enjoyment.

As we head into the annual planning cycle, the Board is discussing a potential First Golf Classic as a charity fundraiser, a community pot luck luncheon or a summer neighborhood block party, and a House and Garden Tour for next year. If you are interested in organizing any of these activities, please email me at [president@franklinarea.org](mailto:president@franklinarea.org) Our Annual business meeting will be held in spring 2010.

*Continued on page 2*

## FACA IS GOING GREEN



This will be the last print copy of the FACA Newsletter. This newsletter and all subsequent editions will be posted on the web site thereby saving the environment and our scarce funds.

If you are a FACA member and would like to receive the newsletter via email, please be assured that we will not reveal your email address. Join or renew your membership by mail using the attached newsletter member application form on page 4.

Charity starts at home! **Please support our community and join today.**

**Notes from the President, cont.**

VINSON HALL recently celebrated their 40th Anniversary. We wish to add our congratulations to all the residents and thank them for being such wonderful neighbors over the years. Vincent Hall residents have contributed many hours, sharing their skills and experiences particularly with our children at Chesterbrook School.

FACA is managed by a 20-member Board of Directors listed below and is made up of your neighbors. All volunteer their time and talents to ensure that your community association delivers the services that are valuable to you. Most neighbors are not aware who these dedicated people are; therefore I want to recognize all of them in this newsletter and acknowledge their unselfish efforts on your behalf. When you have the opportunity, you might consider thanking them for their service.

On behalf of the FACA Board we wish you all a safe summer and look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events during the year.

Very sincerely,

*Wally Sansone*

President

**2009 FACA Board of Directors**

|                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Whit Ayres            | Marion Fontenot           |
| Herb Becker           | Wayne Knight              |
| Doug Bergner          | Lisa Kountoupes           |
| Gary Blumenthal       | Jane McAllister           |
| Don Cochran           | Dwight Marsh (Treas)      |
| Steve Del Bianco (VP) | Jo Marsh                  |
| Ann Dietrich          | Wally Sansone (President) |
| Charles Duggan        | Jim Seale                 |
| Eileen Duggan         | Dana Sitnick              |
| Sandy Eyerly (Editor) | Betty Thompson            |

**Franklin Park 100th Anniversary**

On May 15 residents of Franklin Park subdivision of McLean celebrated the community's 100th anniversary. Franklin Park is a beautiful, tree-friendly and environmentally conscious community located south of the intersection of Kirby Road and Old Dominion Road in McLean. It is also one of the oldest subdivisions in McLean. The community's roots are steeped in tradition and history. In the early 1900's it was a summer retreat for Washingtonians trying to escape the summer heat. And in 1814 Franklin Park was along the path taken by President Madison as he was forced to flee the White House during the War of 1812.

Supervisor Foust, Senator Janet Howell and Delegate Margi Vanderhye participated in the parade commemorating President Madison's 1814 flight. Following the parade was a street fair enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Although it has been built out considerably, Franklin Park's hilly terrain, meandering streams, walking paths and abundance of trees still create an oasis for its residents. It has been said that when you enter Franklin Park you feel like you have arrived at summer camp.

*From Dranesville June Newsletter*



**Left to Right: Senator Janet Howell, Supervisor Foust, and Delegate Margaret Vanderhye at Franklin Park 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



## Traffic Safety

Traffic safety is a major concern of our Franklin area citizens and they have called upon the Police to monitor speeding and reckless driving in the area. The police have responded with radar tracking speeding violations in our area. In the meantime, we will have submitted a request to Supervisor John Foust's office for a joint Fairfax and Virginia Department of Transportation Study dealing with traffic calming in the area.

## Keeping Our Neighborhood Safe

One of the many reasons why our citizens feel comfortable and safe in Franklin Park is the fact that there have been very few instances of crime over the years. This record was abruptly challenged early this summer when approximately 10 motor vehicles were vandalized. A number of car windshields were broken by large rocks while parked overnight along Virginia and Massachusetts. The crimes were reported and Fairfax Police have increased vigilance in our area. Although we are confident that this was an isolated incident, it is a good reminder that citizen awareness is the best deterrent to crime. The Fairfax Police have offered to make available a crime prevention officer to address a meeting of our association. We will let you know when plans for the meeting are finalized. Also, anyone wishing to lead or join in the reconstitution of our neighborhood watch please contact me at [president@franklinarea.org](mailto:president@franklinarea.org).

## Free Outdoor Events: McLean Civic Place Green

Warm weather brings free outdoor events to McLean at the Civic Place Green. Entertainment is presented by The Palladium at McLean and supported by the McLean Revitalization Corporation. All events are held on Saturdays at:

**Civic Place Green**  
**1445 Laughlin Avenue**  
**McLean, VA 22101**

|              |                                 |       |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| August 29    | Jody Marshall (celtic/folk)     | 6-8pm |
| September 5  | Barbara Martin Duo (jazz/blues) | 5-7pm |
| September 12 | No Better Off (alt. rock)       | 5-7pm |
| September 19 | The Seekers (soft rock)         | 4-6pm |
| September 26 | The Rick Thompson Jazz Quartet  | 4-6pm |
| October 3    | Martinez & Guthrie (alt. rock)  | 4-6pm |

## Home Improvement Scams

For many residents of Fairfax County, their home is their most valuable financial asset. For this reason, it is

important to be cautious when hiring someone to do home improvements. Home improvement scams ensnare many unwary consumers, especially during tough economic times. Seniors are especially vulnerable to this form of consumer fraud.

- Be suspicious of contractors who seek you out. Don't believe a contractor who tells you s/he has materials "left over from a job down the street" and s/he can pave your driveway or replace your roof for a "really low price."
- Find out what work the project requires. Knowing this will help you speak knowledgeably with other contractors you are considering for the job and allow you to compare them on an equal basis.
- Determine what repairs or improvements you would like to have done and how much money you can spend. If you know in advance exactly what you want, need and can afford, you will be less likely to fall victim to high-pressure sales tactics.
- Do not do business without a written contract. Be sure that all guarantees, promises, and details are in writing.
- Do not pay large sums in advance and never make a final payment until all work is completed to your satisfaction.
- Check out contractors' licensing and complaint history with the Virginia Board of Contractors (804-367-8511) and the Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs (804-786-2042) or (800-552-9963 if calling from outside the Richmond area).
- Call the police to report suspicious contractors

If you need more assistance, or would like to schedule a free home security check, please contact the McLean District Crime Prevention Office at 703-734-0756.

## McLean Farmers' Market—Fridays 8:30-12:30

Each May to November, eleven sites throughout Fairfax County spring to life with the activity of numerous Farmers Markets. The Markets offer a wide variety of freshly picked fruits, vegetables, and cut flowers. There are also fresh eggs, baked goods, honey and cider to purchase; milk and cheese products, along with a wide array of meat products, round out the edible delights.

All products sold at the Farmers Market are produced by the vendors within 125 miles of Fairfax County. Buy local and support sustainable agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. For more information about the Markets, call 703-642-0128, TTY 703-803-3354.

### McLean Farmers Market, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

May 8 - November 20

At Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean

## Become a FACA Member Today!

We need your help! Support your fellow neighbors in continuing the work of the Franklin Area Citizens Association. Please join together with us as we work to represent the best interests of our unique and special community.

We are not asking for much. Just your membership participation by paying a modest, annual dues of \$20 per household. With approximately 600 homes in our community, this gives us enough of a budget to work for the greater good of the neighborhood.

What does FACA do for you? We serve the community by:

- ✓ Acting as a collective voice in addressing zoning and other legal issues affecting our community.
- ✓ Organizing events that bring us together as a neighborhood such as our recent 100-year anniversary celebration.
- ✓ Working together to maintain the unique features of our special neighborhood – as our sign says, we are proud to be known as “an urban forest.”

**Please support our community and join today!**



## Join FACA

**Annual Dues—Just \$20 a Year per Household.**

**Complete this membership and mail to: OR just mail your check, adding your name, address & e-mail address.**

**Eileen Duggan, FACA Membership Chair, 1958 Massachusetts Avenue, McLean, VA 22101**

Kindly make checks payable to: Franklin Area Citizens Association

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

(Email address will only be used for FACA news)

**Neighborhood Interests (let us know what interests you)**

Trees \_\_\_\_\_

Traffic \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_