

Franklin Forward

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FPAA

Executive Board

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Doug Jackson, Treasurer

Glenda La Rue, Secretary

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Sandra Broadnax

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Monique McCoy

Tom Popoff

Jim Wiggers

Membership Info:

Join us as we make our neighborhood the best place to live!

Dues:

\$20/household
(\$12 for seniors)

Meetings:

4th Tuesday of every month
(Except December) 6:30p.m @
Franklin Park Conservatory

Contact Us:

Franklin Park Area Association

PO Box 009674

Columbus, OH 43209

614-372-1935

fpaa_info@ameritech.net

www.neighborhoodlink.com/columbus/franklin

Improve Your Life With FPAA

-President's Message

As President of the Franklin Park Area Association, I spend a lot of time looking for ways to encourage more people to join our efforts to improve our neighborhood.

I frequently ask people why they become involved. Their answers usually fit into a few categories:

- "I want to know what is going on in the area"*
- "I want to get to know the people who live nearby"*
- "The activities are fun" and*
- "I want to do all I can to make the neighborhood safer"*

It might be more important that we think about what the neighbors who *don't* get involved say when asked. Those who aren't involved blame several misconceptions. Here are a few most common responses:

- "I don't have time"*
- "Neighborhood meetings are boring gripe-sessions or are unproductive"*
- "My involvement won't make a difference"*

I want to take a minute to address these misconceptions about our association.

"I don't have time."

You may be focused on your own home, your family or activities with your place of worship or other organization. They are all important commitments, but isn't working to make your neighborhood a better place for you, loved ones and neighbors also an important obligation? Your involvement could make the difference between living in a run-down, crime-ridden blighted neighborhood and living in a community where neighbors rely on neighbors to protect each others property, have fun, build relationships and lend a helping hand when needed. Is there any better way to spend your time than to improve your environment for you and the ones you care about?

"Neighborhood meetings are unproductive or become gripe-sessions."

People who use this excuse usually haven't attended a neighborhood meeting in a long time. The fact is, the FPAA Executive Board made a conscious commitment to prevent the meetings from becoming an outlet for people to complain without looking for real solutions.

We all face problems. Our association exists to provide opportunities for neighbors to work together to overcome these problems. Some neighborhood groups get distracted from their real purpose. They spend time complaining about what happens *to* them instead of what can happen *with* them. Other groups focus on forcing their neighbors into action rather than take action to help their neighbors.

The FPAA is different; we work hard to make our meetings productive, informative and interesting for everyone in the area. Our activities are attempts to work together to overcome our challenges. We blend work and fun and provide informal opportunities for friendships to develop.

"My involvement won't make a difference."

The opposite is true. Your involvement can make *all* the difference. Our group is small and every helping hand has a big impact. While we are always searching for more people to help with neighborhood cleanups and other volunteer activities, just attending fun events like the Holiday Party, Membership Mixer and Children's Easter Egg Hunt make a huge difference.

We want your involvement and we need your help. The opportunities for contribution are nearly endless. Currently, we need people to assist in redesigning and maintaining our website, contribute to and distribute this newsletter, assist neighbors with home upkeep and help organize our many activities. Your opinion also counts: Let us know what guest speakers you would like us to invite to upcoming meetings and what subjects you would like us to have them cover.

Your neighborhood needs your time and talent. We are all stretched thin these days and if there is no way to contribute your time we also look for financial contributions to assist in paying for our activities such as our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Whether you are contributing your time your talent or your treasure, you and your loved ones will see the difference right here, where you live.





Keeping Your Home Secure

Options that can enhance your home security:

1. **Option 1 - Alarms:** Alarms are what we usually think of first when we hear the term “home security.” Whether you choose a wired or a wireless system, alarm systems are a major deterrent for criminals. Systems can monitor entry points like doors and windows and also monitor for motion when the home should be empty.
 - A. **Motion Sensor Home Security:** This type of home security monitors and detects when unauthorized motion occurs. Modern systems can distinguish between a pet and a criminal, making this method very effective and dependable.
 - B. **Window Break Home Security:** Windows can be a popular point of entry because they are made of glass; however, there are security devices that detect when glass is broken and will set off an alarm scaring away the intruder.
2. **Option 2 - Motion Sensor Floodlights:** Good lighting around the exterior of your home is essential. You can save some energy by installing motion sensor floodlights that only come on when motion is detected. Security professionals highly recommend floodlights as a criminal deterrent.
3. **Option 3 - Security Cameras:** This type of system can allow your home to be guarded 24/7. Security cameras are popular with merchants and other businesses, but are also quickly becoming popular home security devices as well. Camera systems monitor and record activities going on anywhere around your house. You can install a live feed or secretly tape what’s going on when you are not at home. Cameras act as an excellent deterrent and are quite useful in the prosecution of criminals.
4. **Option 4 - A Dog:** Jack MacLean, author of *Secrets of a Superthief*, reported that upon interviewing 300 inmates who had been convicted of burglary or other residential crimes, 95% would be scared away by a dog. A canine companion can act not only as a friend, but can also turn out to be one of your best home security measures.

General Tips:

- Examine your house from the street and make sure no valuables are visible from the street.
- Lock and fasten all doors and windows. Doors should have deadbolt locks with a one-inch throw and reinforced strike plate.
- Secure sliding glass doors. Place a metal rod or piece of plywood in the track to prevent an intruder from forcing the door open.
- When you’re away, make it appear that you’re home - use timers on lights, radios, and televisions.
- Keep the perimeter of your home well lit.
- Never leave clues that you are away. Ask someone to collect your mail and newspapers—or ask for them to be held.
- Trim the shrubbery near your home’s entrance and walkway. This prevents a would-be burglar from hiding in tall, bushy foliage.
- If you DO already own a home security system, make sure it is activated when you leave the house.
- Get to know your neighbors and agree to look out for each other’s property. When something suspicious is going on at your neighbors home, especially when you know they’re away, call the police!

The FPAA would like to help residents start a block watch (or several), but we need residents to VOLUNTEER to be block watch coordinators. PLEASE consider volunteering – A block watch coordinator would simply be the primary point of contact between the block watch members and the police liaison, and would organize meetings either at their home or some other location. Let’s work together to fight neighborhood crime and make the Franklin Park area the best it can be!

Join the Easter Egg Hunt Committee

Parks Committee Chair, Saundra Broadnax is looking for volunteers interested in helping plan the 3rd annual FPAA Easter Egg Hunt that will take place on April 1, 2007. Please contact Saundra at broadns@nationwide.com or 253-0411.



2007 Ohio Community Garden Conference

The annual Ohio Community Garden conference includes presentations, hands-on workshops, keynote speakers and Garden displays. Come hear from a diverse group of presenters who will share a wide range of information about gardening and greening:

Community Gardeners	Horticulturists	Teachers and other educators
Horticultural Therapists	Parks & Planning	Landscape Designers & Architects
Organizers & Leaders	Nutritionists	Open Space Advocates

Friday, March 16 & 17, 2007: 8a-5p both days

\$25-1day; \$45 both days (incl. keynotes, sessions, lunch)

Franklin Park Conservatory

For more info go to: www.fpconservatory.org
or call Bill Dawson at 614.645.5952