



The Farms Free Press

Governor Francis Neighborhood Association [GFNA] Spring 2011 Newsletter / Vol. 5 Issue 1

Farm Chat...

Once again, spring is upon us. What a snowy winter we had this year. There were some amazing sights throughout the farms during all that snowfall. If anyone took any pictures and would like to share them with our neighbors, send them to neighbor@gfna.com and we will put them on the website.

To make the winter even a little more exciting this year, the committee came up with a fun activity. Perhaps you saw Sunny the Snowman making his way around the neighborhood. He is a large five-foot tall snowman that may have been placed on your lawn by a neighbor. If so, it was then your job to pass him on to someone else after a day or two. Sunny was safely returned on March 1st after visiting with thirty-two families. Sunny carried a travel journal with him so that neighbors could see where he'd been. We thought it would be fun to have a little gathering with neighbors and Sunny to celebrate the end of winter and the beginning of spring. This party was held at Spring Green Church on Sunday, March 20th. If you didn't

have a visit from Sunny perhaps you might get him next year. The GFNA would like to make this an annual tradition.

Also over the winter, the committee had its yearly meeting and we would like to share all the upcoming dates and events with you. Please see below and mark your calendars.

Once again, we encourage you to join us in keeping the neighborhood association going. It takes many friends and neighbors to continue these events and we would love your help, ideas or talents. Send an e-mail to neighbor@gfna.com if you have ideas or time that you would like to share. There are many ways to help and if you are looking for community service, look no further.

We look forward to another wonderful year in Governor Francis Farms.

Diane Brannon, *President*

2011 Event Calendar

April 22

Earth Day Clean-up
9:00 am - noon
Spring Green Field

May 14

Yard Sale
starts at 7:30 am!

May 21

Pick-up Flags!
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Namquid Rotary

May 21

JBF 5k Road Race
9:30 am
JBF Elementary School

May 21-28

Flag Walk
through neighborhood

August 29

Annual Bike Parade
6:30 - 7:00 pm
Algonquin Rotary

September

Neighborhood Meeting
7:00 pm
Date + Location TBD

October 15

Pumpkin Patch + Fall Festival
1:00 - 4:00 pm
Spring Green Road

Don't forget to check your neighborhood website for up-to-date information at www.mygfna.com.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLUBS

GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club held their annual Spring Clean-up on April 15th & 16th at the rotaries and entrances. They continue to take care of these common areas in the neighborhood and have sent out a donation envelope asking for contributions in support of such efforts. They are also in the process of having the entrance signs refurbished. The Garden Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month from September through May. If you would like to join or have any questions please contact Marilyn Blanche sblanche1@verizon.net.

BOOK CLUB

The GFNA Bookclub is celebrating their FIFTH year! They continue to meet monthly at different neighbors houses throughout the farms. They have met with local authors and interviewed (via phone) national New York Times bestselling authors. Membership is open and all are welcome to attend! In March, they took on Cami Walker's challenge of bestowing 29 Gifts (as her book is titled) and donated these "gifts" to the local food bank. Their upcoming meeting includes an outing to the movies to compare and contrast Sara Gruen's *Water for Elephants* in April. Please e-mail Patricia Bastia at patricia@mygfna.com for more detailed information on meeting places and times.

WELCOME COMMITTEE

The Welcome Committee is still working hard preparing baskets for new families who move into the neighborhood. They are always looking for new items to include in these baskets. If you have any ideas or products that they could include or are interested in joining the committee please contact Linda at linda@mygfna.com.

GENERAL COMMITTEE

The general committee comes together throughout the year to plan events and discuss ways to better our community. If you are interested in joining this committee please contact Diane or Dina at neighbor@mygfna.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP

This year Earth Day falls on **Friday 22 April**. We thought that since this is also on the school's vacation, that many folks would be home and able to lend a hand. From **9am to noon**, we will be focusing our efforts on the Spring Green playground and field as well as the area around Spring Green Church. Since we use their facility for our meetings and gatherings, we thought it would be a nice gesture to clean-up around there too. The garden club will also be working with us at that time as well as on Saturday. They will continue to concentrate on the entrances and the rotaries. Please come out and show your love of our neighborhood. If you have another area that you'd like to work on, by all means go for it! Any area cleaned benefits everyone.

YARD SALE

Looking forward to some spring cleaning? This year's neighborhood yard sale will be held on **Saturday 14 May** beginning at **7:30am** (rain date 15 May). We ask for a \$2.00 donation for advertisement. If you are interested in participating or helping, call Erin at **463-0024**. Please check the website for information regarding cancellations.

JOHN BROWN FRANCIS PTA 5K ROAD RACE!

Come join us for the 4th Annual JBF PTA 5K Road Race and Ryan's 1 Mile Fun Run on **Saturday 21 May**. Whether you are a seasoned runner, a novice, or walker, support your community by joining us for a morning of exercise and fun. The day will begin at John Brown Francis (JBF) Elementary with a **1 mile walk/run at 9:30 am** followed by the **5K at 10:00am**. Organized by the John Brown Francis Parent Teacher Association the proceeds of the 1 Mile will be donated to Children's Organ Transplant Association in the name of Ryan Agnew (a sixth grader at John Brown Francis School who underwent a liver transplant in 2009 and has ongoing medical costs) while the 5K will support worthwhile programs for the students at JBF. Registration forms can be found at coolrunning.com and jbfpta.org websites. Any questions or if you would like to be a sponsor, please contact contact Kristin Maggiacomo at **463-9415**.

SIDE NOTES...

FLAGS

In honor of Memorial Day, neighborhood volunteers will be delivering a complimentary mini flag to your home. For ease of delivery, our volunteers will be placing these flags in the ground at the edge of your property. Through this effort we hope to unite our neighborhood while displaying our patriotism. We have 840 homes and would love some help. If you would like to volunteer to deliver to the neighbors on your street please stop by the Namquid Rotary on **21 May from 11am to 1pm** to pick-up your bundle of flags.

BICYCLE PARADE

We will once again hold our annual bike parade at the end of school's summer vacation. Decorate your bikes and yourself if you'd like and join us at the Algonquin rotary on **Monday 29 August from 6:30 to 7pm**. And as always, we will have complimentary ice cream sundaes after the parade. Check www.mygfna.com as the day gets closer!

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

We are planning our annual meeting for September. When we have a date we will post it on the entrance signs, mail postcards, and send out an e-mail. As always check the website www.mygfna.com for up-to-date information.

PUMPKIN PATCH + FALL FESTIVAL

Mark the date; you don't want to miss this. On **Saturday 15 October**, between the rotaries, from **1 to 4pm** Governor Francis Farms joins together like no neighborhood on earth and welcomes the changing season with music, hayrides and pie contests. Raindate Sunday 16 October.

We can always use help at this event. If you or someone you know is looking to earn community service hours or just volunteer, please let us know. The GFNA can provide you this opportunity. What better way to accomplish your goals than to help out in your neighborhood. Send an e-mail to neighbor@mygfna.com to begin.

THANK YOU

Website Donation Thank you to neighbor Joe Grimes, owner of Excel-Tech, who donates the yearly fee for the domain name for the GFNA website. Joe's company provides hassle-free computer support for small to medium-sized businesses. The company offers affordable IT solutions for Mac and PC, with a focus on Managed Services and remote support. Contact ExcelTech at 383-4200 / www.exceltech.us.

WEBSITE ADVERTISING

We now offer an opportunity for you to place a link to your business on our website. The cost is \$15 per month. If interested, contact newsletter@mygfna.com.

E-MAILS REQUESTED

Keep yourself up-to-date by checking the GFNA website regularly at www.mygfna.com. Register for our secure e-mail list to receive information regarding neighborhood crime and upcoming events.

GFNA CONTACT INFORMATION

Your GFNA Officers

Diane Brannon
President
diane@mygfna.com

Dina Vincent
Vice President
dina@mygfna.com

Linda 'Ike' Eichenfeldt
Secretary
linda@mygfna.com

Kim Doyle
Treasurer
kim@mygfna.com

Welcome Committee
Linda 'Ike' Eichenfeldt
linda@mygfna.com

Book Club

Patricia Bastia
patricia@mygfna.com

Community Outreach
Sheila Maguire
sheila@mygfna.com

Advertising
Position to be filled
newsletter@mygfna.com

Garden Club
Marilyn Blanche
Joanne Corbett
neighbor@mygfna.com

HENRY'S CORNER

The small town of Warwick grew slowly during the first part of the nineteenth-century. Shore resorts soon became a Mecca for city dwellers, giving factory employees time to refresh themselves from their labor to partake the cool breezes, salt water bathing and dig a bushel of clams from the shore of Narragansett Bay. Camp grounds on the Warwick shoreline with convenient access by horse and wagon were: Warwick Downes, Gaspee Point, Cole Farm. To serve the numerous resorts, steam boats piled the bay providing inexpensive transportation to Mark Rock, Rocky Point and Oakland Beach. So great was the desire of city dwellers to escape the factories of greater Providence area to Warwick, a shoreline railroad was constructed in 1873 to provide transportation that gradually ended the nostalgic steam boat era.

Farmland was inexpensive with the villages of Hoxsic, Conimicut, Showmet, Meadowview and grants were rapidly platted and developed adjacent to the Warwick railroad line. Town services expanded to provide gravel roads, new schools, police and fire protection. Taxes, taxes, taxes were sought by the town but one square mile of farmland south of Pautuxet

Village lay undeveloped. Pressure was initiated by the town fathers' on the Francis ladies, Elizabeth and Sally Francis, daughters of Governor Francis, and their daughter Alice (Francis) Brown to "plat your farm." The old issue of land rights by the town raised its ugly head.

In 1928 Alice (Francis) Brown heir of Governor John Brown Francis bowed to the town pressure and hired surveyor-engineer Ralph S. Mohr to develop a small piece of pasture land formerly the civil war camp ground of the Rhode Island Third Heavy Artillery Company know as Camp Ames that lay adjacent to the 1918 Spring Green grammar school and the Spring Green Sunday School (now known as the area surrounding Spring Green Field and playground). The platted development was laid out in grid fashion as was devised by William Penn when he laid out Philadelphia at the end of the seventeenth-century with streets forty-feet wide and lot comprising of 7000 square feet in area. The plat known as Spring Green Acres was officially opened for lot sales on May 30, 1931. The great economic depression lasting ten years would take a toll on lot sales until 1940/41.



The Governor Francis Neighborhood Association is a non-profit community organization originally founded in the 1950's by Governor Francis neighbors to build community. The GFNA provides and promotes programs, services and activities aimed at encouraging connections between neighbors and fostering civic involvement in our community.

Governor Francis
Neighborhood Association
PO Box 8316
Warwick, Rhode Island
02888



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