

Farmington Civic Association

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The President's Letter

Hello, Farmington Neighbors!

Albert Schweitzer, a Lutheran minister who won the Nobel Peace Prize, said "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know; the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve." Myself, and I think other members of the Farmington Civic Association (FCA), can relate to this quote, as we have found happiness in community with our neighbors.

As usual, the members of the board and general members of the association have been hard at work. Neighbors had a good time at the ice cream social the FCA hosted. A special thanks to our neighbor, and owner of Soul-N-The Wall restaurant, Randy Bowman for supplying the ice cream. Our 1st Vice President Mike Chapman, has been diligently working with the camera company on repairs and warranty replacements for our security camera. As per usual, Bobby Whitted and Rodney Mills do an excellent job of hanging our seasonal banners. And as always, the members of the garden club have been hard at work maintaining and beautifying the median, in particular Betty Mixon, Lohrer and David Mise, Alice Lockley, and Jerri Chambers.

We are planning to do the holiday decorating contest again this year, so please submit nominees to the FCA. Elections will be held in January. We welcome any candidates for an elected position or to serve in a non-elected position.

The FCA has received word the city is working on adjusting the traffic light coming out of Farmington to allow more cars through each cycle. Also, the city is looking at excessive speeding on Wexford Hill Rd. As a reminder, trash and recycling bins as well as yard waste and bulk trash shall be placed at the curbside no earlier than 3pm on the day before scheduled collection per city code.

We appreciate your support. Payments can be mailed to the P.O. Box or sent via PayPal from our website). Membership is \$60/yearly, a low ask for the myriad benefits of the civic association, including the lovely upkeep and beautification on the medians, events, this newsletter, and many other things that benefit the neighborhood (and by extension, your property values!). Thank you to all who support the work of making this neighborhood a wonderful place to live.

Enjoy the coming brisk weather and see you around the neighborhood,

Connie Vatsa, President

Community Yard Sale a Resounding Success!



Potential buyers sifted through what was on offer.



Whetstone Dr. was abuzz with traffic as the yard sale started.



Randy Bowman's food truck was on hand to ensure no bargain hunters had to search on an empty stomach.

The FCA (Farmington Civic Association) sponsored community yard sale took place on Saturday October 18th and was a resounding success! Traffic was high at 8am, as early birds swarmed the neighborhood hoping to find some bargains. Resident Randy Bowman had a food truck parked on Whetstone, where traffic was highest, with delicious breakfast croissant sandwiches.

Despite Whetstone being the highest-trafficked area, numerous houses all around the neighborhood setup shop, with clothes, baby items, and all manner of goods for sale. Many thanks to Pam Kelly of the FCA Board for organizing the sale, arranging to have the sign put in the front of the neighborhood to advertise the sale, and for hanging up the sign. Thanks to all who participated and setup booths on your driveways and thanks to everyone who patronized the event.

Vik Vatsa, Newsletter Editor



FCA Elections



Officers are elected every two years, and this coming January we will be having those elections. Each member of a paid household is eligible to run for an officer position. Currently, candidates who have announced their intention to run are myself for President, Mike Chapman for 1st Vice President, Alex Norwood for 2nd Vice President, and Aaron Giles for Treasurer. There is no declared candidate for Secretary. If you are interested in running for any position, please let us know so we can add your name to the ballot. Candidates should be declared by December 15th to be added to the ballot. If you have any questions about any position, we are more than happy to answer any questions. The duties of each position are also outlined in the By-Laws which are posted on the Community Information tab on <https://farmingtonva.com>

We plan to send ballots out electronically to those for whom we have email addresses. Ballots can be returned by mail. In person voting will also occur on January 26th. FCA members in good standing will receive an email ballot. You can return that ballot by email prior to the election day if you choose. Ballots will be available at the voting location (likely Northampton Community Center).

We also have a couple of non-officer positions available on the Executive Board, including membership chair and a youth member position. Please let us know if you are interested in serving.

Connie Vatsa, President



Ice Cream Social



Nothing like ice cream to bring out the neighbors.



Farmington's younger residents enjoyed the ice cream social, too.



The ice cream social was a chance to talk to some notable residents of the city. From left to right: Officer Brown, Vice Mayor Brown; Councilpersons Bowman, Harper, and Campbell; and Officer Birdsong.

On Tuesday August 26th, at 6:30PM, the FCA took a swing and hosted the first ice cream social I can remember here in my time at the neighborhood. We had a bigger turnout than anticipated, but the ice cream brought to us courtesy of neighborhood resident and city councilman Randy Bowman did not run out! Neighbors had a great time catching up, enjoying ice cream on a beautiful summer day. Please let the FCA know: would you like us to host an ice cream social again next summer? All photos courtesy of FCA 1st Vice President Michael Chapman.

Vik Vatsa, Newsletter Editor

National Night Out



Neighbors discussed safety issues and caught up on neighborhood news during National Night Out.

National Night Out is a community-building event across the country that brings neighbors together with local police, fire, and other safety groups to promote crime-prevention and neighborhood camaraderie. As we've done the last several years, the FCA has observed the event by organizing walks from various points of the neighborhood to a central location, where members of the Hampton PD met with our residents to discuss neighborhood safety. The event took place the evening of Tuesday, October 7th. Officers Birdsong and Brown briefly addressed the crowd and solicited questions before people broke off into groups to discuss safety issues and take advantage of the meeting to catch up with their neighbors. Councilwoman Campbell attended and informally talked about local issues with curious residents. The FCA provided snacks and bottled water for attendees.

Vik Vatsa, Newsletter Editor

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



Holiday Median Decoration – The board is planning to decorate the median at the entrance on Saturday November 22nd at 10:00am. Please join us in hanging/stringing lights.

Holiday Decorating Contest – The FCA Board will be conducting the contest again this year. FCA members who have their home decorated by December 20th will be eligible for nomination. Please email farmingtonhptva@gmail.com with nominees.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



President Connie Vatsa kicked off the meeting.



Mayor Gray addressed homelessness in Hampton.



City Council Members Randy Bowman and Michelle Ferebee were in attendance.



Coffee and doughnuts were a hit!

The Farmington Civic Association (FCA) had its latest General Membership meeting on Wednesday, Sept 17th. It was broadly advertised as “Coffee with the Mayor”, and indeed Mayor Jimmy Gray, as well as plenty of coffee and doughnuts (courtesy of the FCA), were in attendance!

President Connie Vatsa discussed the damage to the front entrance. A resident asked about the damage and the grant that Connie and Pam (from the FCA Board) were working on to help pay for the repair, which Connie pointed out was estimated at 20 thousand dollars, far in excess of what the FCA can afford to take out of the treasury. It turns out that the process to obtain the grant had not been ironed out as of yet, but Connie has attended a 3 hour class from the city that was a prerequisite for anyone who wished to apply. The stated purpose of the grant is to incentivize neighborhood improvements to foster community.

The mayor spoke next, briefly going over his background (moved to Hampton in 2004, started in fire service, served as Fire Chief for six years, then Asst. City Manager, and finally several terms on the City Council before becoming mayor) before moving on to taking questions. He was asked about the unhoused problem in Hampton and said that the original tactic of arresting folks for sleeping on sidewalks was criticized as criminalizing homelessness, and court rulings have made it so that non-aggressive panhandling is no longer illegal, so other tactics are being taken to tackle the homeless problem. He pointed out that the city is currently looking for a location to build a new homeless shelter. In a related question, the mayor stated that ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units) were being looked at as one way to increase housing capacity in the city. A question about gun violence in the city had the mayor discussing the “Hopeful Hampton” program that engages in youth violence prevention and their collaboration with “Violence Interruptors”.

Two city council members attended as spectators, Randy Bowman and Michelle Ferebee. The FCA encourages you to attend the next General Membership meeting. You never know who’ll show up, and whether there will be coffee and doughnuts. Want snacks at all General Membership meetings? Attend a meeting and let the FCA know!

Vik Vatsa, FCA Newsletter Editor

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