

The Finksburg News

Finksburg Planning Area Council, Inc. Newsletter

To Promote A Finksburg Community,
Whose Objective Is To Preserve The
Fundamental Quality Of Life Where Farms,
Families And Businesses
May Coexist In A Manner Beneficial To All

Summer Picnic for FPAC Members And Community July 28th!!!

Who: All residents of Finksburg and its environs are invited

What: To attend the Finksburg Planning Area Council, Inc. general membership meeting

When: Thursday July 28th at 6 p.m.

Where: Sandymount Community Park Pavilion

What's For Dinner?:

The annual FPAC cookout is scheduled for Thursday, July 28th at Sandymount Park. The picnic begins at 6 p.m. and Donald Hoffman will be manning the grill again this year. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be the featured foods along with chips, salads and drinks. We also ask that everyone bring a covered dish of your favorite food if you plan on attending. This is our summertime event and hope you come and enjoy some good eats. FPAC President Jim Johnson will have updates on a variety of topics.

Gerstell Wants Huge Athletic Facility:

The county Subdivision Advisory Council is considering a request by the owner of Gerstell Academy to build a 56,634 square foot athletic facility in Finksburg. The building will be constructed on the north side of Old Westminster Pike and east of Brown Road. FPAC will be represented at the SAC meeting July 25th at 9 a.m. The owner of the Gerstell Academy property, or his representative should be available at the meeting to answer questions about the project. A copy of the proposed development plan is available for review at the Bureau of Development Review, Room 201 in the County Office Building, 225 N. Center Street. For further information you can call the Bureau of Development Review at 410-386-2143. This is another project FPAC is very concerned about!

BGE Plans Tree Removals:

Two representatives from Constellation Energy met with the FPAC Board earlier this month. They told the board that work would begin this month to prune or remove trees that may disrupt electric service. The work will take place along Route 140 between Finksburg and Westminster beginning July 25th. Hillendale Homes will see tree removals. The work is needed according to BGE, to enhance the safe and reliable delivery of electric service. It should conclude in late October. BGE is notifying customers if their vegetation will be affected. The board did request that BGE consider burying ugly overhead wires but the BGE folks said that would be too costly. A BGE press release will be accessible on the Finksburg.org website.

Energy Bill:

A House-Senate conference committee in Washington is scheduled to take up the energy bill this week. One of the more controversial issues in the House bill includes a liability waiver for gas companies that pollute community water systems with MTBE. MTBE has contaminated several well systems in Finksburg. The House has a compromise bill that would setup a fund to help communities' cleanup the water. We'll keep you updated on this.

FPAC Considers Non-Profit Status:

The FPAC board is examining whether we as a group should join the Maryland Association of Non-Profits. This could be beneficial in attracting more members and in making FPAC eligible for more funding. Stay Tuned!

Proposed Name Change:

As of 7/18/05 we have received only 7 name change submissions. The board decided to extend the submission deadline to July 28th and any more submissions will be accepted at the picnic. The board at our August 3rd meeting will consider names and the new name will be announced at our August general meeting. The person with the winning name will receive a prize.

Redistricting Update:

The redistricting committee voted to split Finksburg in two. That means two county commissioners may represent Finksburg residents when the next election is held. However Senator Larry Haines has said he may request legislation to have county residents vote for five at-large commissioners.

August Meeting Is Going To Be A Good One:

The FPAC Board has tentatively planned to show a tape of the Council of Government's (COG) planning conference that was held last month at CCC at our August general membership meeting. The tape will include the wonderful presentation by Community Planner Ed McMahon.

New Business Referral Group Formed:

Business Network International has started a Finksburg chapter. The group meets Wednesday afternoons at 11:30 A.M. at J&P's Restaurant in the Finksburg Plaza. This is a business referral group and if you are a small business that wants to grow your business through word of mouth referrals, please attend.

Be Informed. Attend the Next Meeting!

FPAC Inc. Schedule:

07/28/05 Picnic

08/03/05 FPAC Board Meeting

08/25/05 FPAC General Meeting

Save a Stamp: Receive your newsletter electronically. Send your e-mail address to Richard Ackerman at richard.ackerman@finksburg.org.

- ✓ Mark Your Calendar: General Council meetings are the 4th Thursday of the month at the Sandy Mount United Methodist Church. Meetings begin at 7 PM. Board meetings are usually held on the 1st Wednesday of each month.
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Yearly Membership Fee: \$10 per household, \$25 per business

Dues: You can still pay your 2005 dues. The organization uses money from dues to pay for the printing and mailing costs of this newsletter and other mailings.

_____ I would like to join the Finksburg Planning Area Council, Inc. a not-for-profit organization.

_____ I would like to renew my membership. (Dues and donations not tax deductible)

_____ Yes, I would also like to volunteer. (Board membership, roadside trash pickup, county meeting attendance, etc.)

_____ I would like to make an additional donation of \$_____ to the FPAC.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Work phone _____

E-mail _____@_____

Finksburg Planning Area Council, Inc. P O Box 70 Finksburg, Maryland 21048

Board of Directors:

- Jim Johnson-President
- Mike Davis-Vice-President
- John Lopez-Treasurer
- Debbie Lockwood-Secretary
- Mat Tiaht-Communications Director
- Deborah Ridgely
- Maureen Ackerman
- Lewis Berkemeier
- Alice "Sissy" Alstatt