



# The Farms Free Press

Governor Francis Neighborhood Association [GFNA] Spring 2010 Newsletter / Vol. 4 Issue 1

---

## Farm Chat...

Well spring has left us a bit soggy this year, to say the least! I hope you are all managing the demands the weather placed upon us. I know many of us have had significant damage due to this historic flooding. If there is any way the association can provide you support please contact us through the website.

The GFNA Committee has been planning out the year's activities. Please find the calendar below and keep it handy. The Committee has decided to print only one newsletter this year. We are planning many of the same popular events as always and will now be sending out postcards as reminders.

We were hoping to have a representative from the Emergency Management System come to speak at our spring open meeting but due to the flooding crisis, they were just too busy to accommodate us. We will plan this meeting for the fall. 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](http://www.mygfna.com) for up-to-date information.

If you are not on our secure e-mail list and would like to be added, please visit our webpage and you can sign-up there. We only use e-mail addresses to contact our neighbors regarding GFNA sponsored events or to inform you of anything important to the quality of our neighborhood.

We have decided that due to the struggling economy and financial demands due to flooding, we are not including a donation envelope. However, please consider donating your time or talents to any of our events or the committee itself.

GNFA has been successfully running for the past four years now. Over these years we have had many volunteers join us. We are always looking for new ideas and energy. We strongly encourage anyone who has an interest in our neighborhood to consider joining the committee. We welcome all neighbors.

Diane Brannon, *President*

---

## 2010 Event Calendar

### May 22

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

### May 22–29

Flag Walk  
through neighborhood

### June 05

Yard Sale  
starts at 7:30 am!

### August 30

Third Annual Bike Parade  
6:30 – 7:00 pm  
Algonquin Rotary

### September

Neighborhood Meeting  
7:00 pm  
Date + Location TBD

### October 16

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

### October 16

Pie Contest  
1:00 – 3:00 pm  
Spring Green Road

Don't forget to check your neighborhood website for up-to-date information at [www.mygfna.com](http://www.mygfna.com).

## NEIGHBORHOOD CLUBS

### GARDEN CLUB

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](mailto:sblanche1@verizon.net).

### BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 27 May at 7pm. We will be discussing *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder. Then we're scheduled to read *Secrets of Eden* for our June meeting and *Shutter Island* for the July meeting. Please contact [patricia@mygfna.com](mailto:patricia@mygfna.com) for further details on time and locations.

### WALKING CLUB

Now that the weather is getting warmer, come and join the walking club every **Wednesday at 9am** for some exercise! Walkers meet at the Namquid rotary (with the mailbox). Everyone is welcome. Contact Cheryl Lee Brill and Wally Wetherbee with any questions at [cheryl@cherylandwally.com](mailto:cheryl@cherylandwally.com) or **640-6644**.

### WELCOME COMMITTEE

The Welcome Committee is still working hard preparing baskets for new families who moved into the neighborhood. We are always looking for new items to include in our baskets. If you have any ideas or products that we could include or are interested in joining the committee please contact Linda at [linda@mygfna.com](mailto: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](mailto:neighbor@mygfna.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JOHN BROWN FRANCIS PTA 5K ROAD RACE!

Family, friends, and neighbors of John Brown Francis Elementary School are invited to participate in the JBF PTA 5k Road Race and 1 mile Ryan's Run/Walk on **Saturday 15 May at 10am (walk at 9:30am)**. This race will take place entirely within the beautiful neighborhood! Get involved by registering or cheering on the athletes. You may register the day of the race or stop by the school for a registration form.

### 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 **22 May from 11am - 1pm** to pick-up your bundle of flags.

### YARD SALE

Time to clean out the cobwebs after a long, hard winter. This year's neighborhood yard sale will be held on **Saturday 5 June** beginning at **7:30am** (rain date 6 June). 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.

### BICYCLE PARADE

On **Monday 30 August** come join in on our third annual bicycle parade for an end of summer celebration! We will gather again at the Algonquin rotary at **6:30pm**. All ages welcome! Use your creativity and decorate your bicycles and helmets. Check [www.mygfna.com](http://www.mygfna.com) as the day gets closer!

### PUMPKIN PATCH + FALL FESTIVAL

Mark the date; you don't want to miss this. On **Saturday 16 October**, between the rotaries, from **1 - 4pm** Governor Francis Farms joins together like no neighborhood on earth and welcomes the changing season with music, hayrides and pie contests. Raindate Sunday 17 October.

## SIDE NOTES...

### THANK YOU

*Earth Day Volunteers* Thank you once again to all of our neighbors who came out to help clean up our neighborhood.

*Website Donation* Thank you to Joe Grimes, owner of ExcelTech, 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 OS and Windows, with a focus on Managed Services and remote support. ExcelTech is located at 891 Warwick Avenue / 383-4200 / [www.exceltech.us](http://www.exceltech.us)

### BROWNIE LEADER WANTED

Our local brownie troop 110 is in desperate need of a leader for next year. This troop meets October through June on the first Thursday of the month from 4– 6pm. This is a great opportunity to foster community relationships with girls in grades two and three. If you are a retired teacher and miss working with children or you were a girl scout and want to create great memories and experiences for these girls please contact Diane at [diane@mygfna.com](mailto:diane@mygfna.com).

### COMMUNITY SERVICE + VOLUNTEERS

If you or someone you know is looking to earn community service hours, look no further! The GFNA can provide you this opportunity. What better way to accomplish your goals than to help out in your neighborhood.

And of course, volunteers are always welcome to help us fold newsletters, deliver flyers, make phone calls, or perform other various tasks. E-mail [neighbor@mygfna.com](mailto:neighbor@mygfna.com) to begin.

### 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](mailto:newsletter@mygfna.com).

### E-MAILS REQUESTED

Keep yourself up-to-date by checking the GFNA website regularly at [www.mygfna.com](http://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](mailto:diane@mygfna.com)

Dina Vincent  
Vice President  
[dina@mygfna.com](mailto:dina@mygfna.com)

Linda 'Ike' Eichenfeldt  
Secretary  
[linda@mygfna.com](mailto:linda@mygfna.com)

Kim Doyle  
Treasurer  
[kim@mygfna.com](mailto:kim@mygfna.com)

*Welcome Committee*  
Linda 'Ike' Eichenfeldt  
[linda@mygfna.com](mailto:linda@mygfna.com)

#### *Book Club*

Patricia Bastia  
[patricia@mygfna.com](mailto:patricia@mygfna.com)

#### *Community Outreach*

Sheila Maguire  
[sheila@mygfna.com](mailto:sheila@mygfna.com)

#### *Walking Club*

Cheryl Lee Brill  
[cheryl@cherylandwally.com](mailto:cheryl@cherylandwally.com)

#### *Advertising*

Position to be filled  
[newsletter@mygfna.com](mailto:newsletter@mygfna.com)

#### *Garden Club*

Marilyn Blanche  
Joanne Corbett  
[neighbor@mygfna.com](mailto:neighbor@mygfna.com)



**In Squantum pond, 4–6 Wood Ducks and several Mallards were photographed by Greg Sargeant on 25 March 2010. You can visit [www.ribirds.com](http://www.ribirds.com) to see additional photographs.**

## HENRY'S CORNER

Due to the flooding we experienced, we thought it might be interesting to hear some historical accounts on the subject from our very own Henry A.L. Brown.

Quoted from a letter written by John Brown to his son James on March 31, 1783.

*"...I wish I could think of a better name which might be applicable and to call it Spring Green. Its applicable in every sense; first its been in the name of the Green Family 100 years and secondly its very Springy and consequently early in the spring is green, and thirdly in the Spring we enter on the Green Farm."*

The real estate development known as Governor Francis Farms, founded in 1938, was harassed persistently by a high water table especially the area known as the Calf Pasture (Apple Tree Lane, Wauregan, Pocono, and Mashuena). A drain was crafted running the length of Apple Tree Lane emptying the water into a stream just below Squantum Pond. Frantic telephone calls were received by my father from the new owners of homes along Apple Tree Lane stating severe flooding in their cellars. Upon examination of the drain

outflow adjacent to Mrs. Arabian's home on the corner of Apple Tree and Squantum revealed a neatly landscaped bank, no drainage. Our foreman Ken Sykes with engineers drawings in hand located the buried pipe. The farm men dug away the embankment to discover the cement pipe had been plugged with wooden bung. Sledge hammers reduced the plugged pipe. I stood on the bank as the water shot out 12 feet while Mrs. Arabian was shouting "this is private property I will call the police." The water ran for nearly a month until the water table was lowered.

On Spring Green Road near the intersection of Algonquin Drive was impassable every spring to high ground water that emitted in a free flowing river washing out the lane every April. Other areas of the farm were underlain with bank gravel where the Governor Francis Shopping center and John Brown Francis School stand.

*In and effort to continue documenting our history, please feel free to send us an e-mail or write us a letter regarding your experiences with flooding and we will place it in the neighborhood records.*

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.

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



PRSRPT STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT # 808  
PROVIDENCE, RI