



THE FREEDOM

INFORMER

A Publication of FACC / Freedom Area Citizens' Council

www.freedomareacitizens.org

October 2002

Forum huge success

Over 350 attend Sept. 5 event at fire hall

Over 350 people attended the FACC-sponsored forum for commissioner-candidates held on Thursday Sept. 5 at the Sykesville-Freedom VFD hall. The event was by far the best attended among the half dozen pre-primary forums throughout the county.

As one candidate remarked, the public's response reflected the high level of interest among citizens of the Freedom Area on issues that impact them.

FACC vice-chairman Mike Naused moderated the event which featured questions related to representation

of Freedom Area citizens in the county government, funding for education, relationships between the Carroll County government and neighboring jurisdictions, economic development, and aspects of each candidates' platform that set them apart from their competitors.

The highlight of the evening was the early departure of candidate Ed Primoff who, claiming that he had another engagement, wanted to take questions out of order. This departure was followed a few days later by Mr. Primoff's early departure from the campaign when his platform was rejected by Carroll County voters.



Commissioner candidates Perry Jones (R) and Jeannie Nichols (D) chat before FACC's candidate forum at Sykesville-Freedom fire hall.

FACC to host forum for Delegate, State Attorney candidates

The FACC will host a forum for candidates for the delegate seat for District 9B and for the State Attorney position at the October general membership meeting. The meeting will be held on Tuesday Oct. 15th at 7 p.m. at the Carrolltown Christian Church in Carrolltown Center.

The candidates for the delegate seat are Ken Holniker (D) and Susan Krebs (R.). For State Attorney, the two candidates are Jerry Barnes (R.) and Richard Nacewicz (D). The candidates for the delegate seat will speak from 7 to 8 p.m. followed by the State Attorney candidates from 8 to 9 p.m.

Each candidate will be allotted a 4-minute opening statement, followed by three questions from the FACC Board with a 2-minute response for each candidate.

After that members of the audience will be requested to ask questions. The candidates will have one minute each for each question from the audience. Audience members will be requested to indicate when they enter the church whether they wish to ask a question and questions will be in the order indicated by the sign-in list.

NEXT FACC MEETING
Tuesday Oct. 15 at 7 p.m.
Carrolltown Center

Editorial:

County breathes a sigh of relief

Freedom's voice rang out after the September 10 primary elections. The majority of Freedom area voters breathed a sigh of relief.

Three moderate Republicans joined the three unopposed Democrats and Independent Vince DePalmer in the race for three county commissioner seats. Incumbent Julia Gouge, newcomer Dean Minnich, and second-time candidate Perry Jones swept through the primary, outpacing four pro-growth candidates and three others.

The election of moderate Republicans represents a resounding repudiation of the pro-growth philosophy of conservative candidates Frazier, Dell, Brauning and Primoff. It also represents overwhelming rejection of the mismanagement of incumbents Frazier and Dell who came in sixth and seventh in their own party primary.

The Republicans joined a field of three capable Democrats including leading vote-getter, Neil Ridgely; slow-growth candidate, Betty Smith; and experienced town councilwoman, Jeannie Nichols of Sykesville. Collectively, the three Democrats received about three thousand more votes than their four counterparts in the 1998 Democratic primary, although the increase in the number of registered Democratic voters was up only about 500. This indicates, we believe, either much more interest in the issues or the realization by the voters that the candidates are more attractive this time.

Although many citizens expressed relief about the moderate Republicans who won, some Democrats have expressed concern, arguing that one of the more conservative incumbents would have been easier to combat in the November 5th gen-

eral elections than the moderates who actually won.

The FACC is heartened to see that the candidates receiving a "thumbs up" in the September issue of *The Banner* were also approved by the voters. While it was not an endorsement but more a statement that any of these three Republicans AND any of the three Democratic candidates would be acceptable commissioners



(going into the primaries), it is encouraging. The FACC's approval of these candidates was based on the belief that these candidates had taken positions which have been supported by the FACC on issues like growth, Piney Run, and open government, issues that are important to citizens of the Freedom area.

It will really be interesting to see what happens in the next few weeks.

Will the candidates be steadfast in their primary positions during the more competitive general election campaigns? Will the Republican candidates modify their stances to attract the thousands of conservative votes that must find somewhere to go now that the pro-growth candidates are not in the contest?

Can the Democrats attract thousands of Independents and cross-over Republicans who could not vote for them in the primaries?

Will the supporters of conservative candidates who did not survive the primaries attack moderate Republicans or moderate Democrats? Or both? Who will be the target of the expected childish and knavish dirty tricks?

Only time will tell.

Phil Bennett

Sykesville OKs FACC, FPAC representation

The Sykesville Town Council included representation from the FACC and from the Finksburg Planning Area Council (FPAC) in comments by the Town on draft bylaws for the proposed Carroll County Council of Governments (CCCOG) coalition.

The CCCOG arose as a result of comments by the county commissioners in the run-up to the primary elections that placed much of the blame for uncontrolled growth in the county on the eight municipalities. The concept of a coalition to represent the municipalities and other unrepresented groups arose during a joint meeting of the town governments. Mayor Jonathan Herman of Sykesville, Councilman Frank Johnson of Mt. Airy and Councilman Greg Pecoraro of Westminster were appointed by the municipalities to draft bylaws for the CCCOG that are now being circulated to the elected councils of the county's towns and Westminster.

The coalition was formed to create dialogue with the county commissioners regarding growth, development of adequate public facilities and other issues inadequately addressed by the county. FACC and FPAC petitioned the group for representation so that issues effecting the nearly 30,000 citizens of Freedom and 17,000 citizens in Finksburg could be heard by the county government.

Mayor Hermann was quoted (CCT) saying "The current Board of Commissioners has made a lot of decisions without input from the public. Now, all these stakeholders will be ... making recommendations to the commissioners."

The Carroll County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League had given approval to the concept of FACC/FPAC representation a week earlier in Westminster.

FACC selects new officers, amends by-laws

The Board of Directors of the Freedom Area Citizens' Council has chosen officer-candidates for the 2002-04 term.

A nominating committee appointed by the Board selected the following slate of officers: Ross Dangel, Chairman; Mike Naused, First Vice Chairman; Nimrod Davis, Second Vice Chairman; Cathy Dodson, Treasurer; and Phil Bennett, Secretary.

These nominations will be formally presented to the Board at the October meeting and the election will be conducted by the Board at the November General Membership meeting. The term of the officers is two-years beginning in June of even numbered years. Because of an on-going review of the organization's by-laws, the election of officers this year was delayed.

The FACC's by-laws have been changed to permit wider participation by the General Membership. Candidates for the Board of Directors can now be chosen by and from the General Membership, as well as by members of the sitting board. Members of the General Membership in good standing who have expressed an interest in serving on the board, submitted a written resume of their community activities, and obtained endorsement by a member of the sitting board can stand for election whenever there is a vacancy on the board or at the time of the next election in June 2004. Election to the board is by vote of the members of the sitting board.

Phil Bennett
Editor

About FACC membership

FACC is a non-profit organization of volunteers that depends on two sources of income: advertising in our quarterly newspaper, *The Banner*, and membership dues.

We have been told that FACC and *The Banner* provide a useful service to the community and we are pleased by these comments.

But, many of our members seem to believe that once they join the FACC, they are continuing members. By our by-laws, membership runs from January to December of each year. So, in order to continue to be a member, **each family must renew its membership annually**. Members who join in the last four months of each calendar year are credited with the next year also so that new members have 16 months membership.

So, please take a moment to fill out the form below to renew your membership for 2003 and send it back to FACC at P.O. Box 142, Eldersburg 21784. And, copy the form and give it to your neighbors who might want to join and ask them to return the form. It's really important for the organization to grow.

It's only \$10 a year for each family. And besides all of the useful information that members receive, they also get great discounts from local merchants. It's the best deal in town.

Next FACC meeting
7 p.m Tuesday Oct. 15, 2002
Carrolltown Christian Church
Carrolltown Center

USE THIS FORM TO JOIN OR TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP FOR 2003!

FACC is a non-profit community organization.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Are you a member of a Homeowners' Association? _____ If so, which HOA? _____

I would be interested in offering assistance with:

Legal Affairs Membership Schools Publications

Government Media Relations Other: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Check No.: _____

New membership

Renewal

Annual Membership Fee: \$10.00 per year per household

Please make checks payable to FACC. Mail to: FACC, P.O. Box 142, Sykesville, MD 21784

FACC
P.O. Box 142
Eldersburg, MD 21784

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SYKESVILLE, MD
PERMIT #130



Planners to hear requests on traffic calming

On Tuesday Oct. 15th the concept plan for the J. Daniel Phillips property on Bennett Road will be heard by the Carroll County Planning and Zoning Commission. In conjunction with the concept plan, the planners will also hear pleas from local residents regarding traffic calming concerns on Bennett Road.

At an earlier hearing before the Subdivision Advisory Committee, a county employee suggested that residents seek a roundabout at the intersection of Bennett Road and Monroe Avenue as a traffic-calming device. Although the intersection is a relatively low volume intersection at this time, completion of Monroe Avenue from Oklahoma Road to Bennett Road, through the Phillips property, is expected to significantly increase traffic volume.

At two subsequent meetings between the Planning Department, the Department of Public works and the Carroll County Board of Commissioners, the commissioners considered, then approved a suggested design for the roundabout, subject to approval by the Planning Commission.

Residents of the Bennett Road area have long been concerned about the high rates of speed by commuters and occasional drag racers. Although the road is designated a "major collector," increased development in recent years has made the road a residential street.

The hearing will be part of the Planning Commission's regular monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of each month. A specific time for discussion of this subject has not yet been identified. Interested residents are encouraged to contact the Planning Office at 410-386-2145 on or after Oct. 11th to determine the time of the meeting.

Court denies dismissal

On September 20, 2002, Carroll County Circuit Court Judge Luke K. Burns denied Carroll County's motion to dismiss a suit that alleges the county illegally collected water rate fees to construct the proposed water treatment plant at Piney Run Lake.

The suit, Carroll County v. Perkins et al., was filed on November 1, 2001, alleges that maintenance fees collected from current and past users of the Freedom Water/Sewer would be used to construct the new facility for future users. The county confirmed this intention in public hearings last summer.

The county filed a motion to dismiss that was heard on May 24, 2002. The recent decision by Judge Burns denied the county's motion. No comment was included in the judge's decision regarding future action on the suit.