

NEWSLETTER

HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on the following dates: Tuesday, January 18 (Sager residence); Wednesday, February 16 (Annual meeting, Buffington/ReMax Building); Thursday, April 14 (Sands residence); Tuesday, June 14 (Stine residence); Wednesday, September 14 (O'Loughlin residence); and Thursday, November 17 (Schmidt residence). All homeowners are welcome to attend. ❖

HOA Web Site

The Brookeville Farms HOA web site is located at <http://www.bfmdhoa.org/>. This site includes information pertaining to the HOA such as ARC forms, minutes from previous board meetings, current and previous newsletters, as well as contact information for board members. ❖

MoCo 311

A reminder to homeowners that access to Montgomery County government information and non-emergency services is now provided by calling a single number: "3-1-1."

The MoCo 311 Customer Service Center (CSC) can be called to report street lights that are not functioning, trees that have been knocked down, missing street signs or poles, street repairs, etc.

Hours of Call Center operation are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. ❖

Neighborhood Crime

While we like to think of Brookeville Farms as a safe community, acts of vandalism and theft occasionally happen. Simple protective measures should be used to protect ourselves and our property, including:

For Your Home:

- Keep your doors and windows locked.
- Never hide keys in obvious places such as under the doormat.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked.

- Keep your vehicles locked and do not leave valuable items in plain sight.
- Never leave your car running while unattended.
- Keep your yard neat and your landscaping trimmed.
- Employ outdoor lighting when possible.
- Keep bicycles and lawn equipment locked up or keep stored inside.

Vacation Security:

- Have a trusted neighbor pick up mail and newspaper.
- Make sure a trusted neighbor is checking your house.
- Make arrangements to have the lawn mowed and the garbage put out.
- Set your light timers to your normal schedule so your home will look lived in.
- Put valuables in a safe while you are away.

Remember to:

- Report any suspicious activity that you see in our neighborhood to the Montgomery County Police at 301-279-8000. ❖

Tips for Runners to Improve Safety when Jogging on Streets

Now that it is getting darker earlier, runners are urged to stay safe by following these helpful tips:

- Run against traffic so you can see and react to advancing motorists.
- Don't assume a driver sees you--in fact, assume the opposite.
- At a stop sign or signal, wait for the driver to wave you through; then acknowledge with your own wave.
- Allow at least three feet between you and a passing vehicle; be prepared to jump onto the sidewalk or shoulder.

- During group runs, go single file when cars need to pass.
- Use hand signals to show which way you plan to turn.
- Respect the drivers' right to the road; check with Police for local traffic rules.
- Run with proper ID, carry a cell phone, and make sure you have an ICE (In Case of Emergency) contact listed.

(Source: Liz Robbins, "Collision Course," RunnersWorld.com, January, 2010, p. 85ff.) ❖

Fire/Carbon Monoxide Risks During Cold Weather

Cold temperatures may prompt families to turn to drastic measures to heat their homes. Even traditional alternative heating sources, such as a fireplace or space heaters can be dangerous if not used properly. As temperatures drop in your community, some simple tips can help keep families safer.

Winter months in particular are the peak time for house fires and carbon monoxide (CO) poisonings, with most incidents due to improperly ventilated or malfunctioning heating sources. Families can better protect themselves by having working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of the home and in sleeping areas. In addition, the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service and experts at Kidde recommend the following heating safety tips:

Carbon Monoxide Prevention

- Do not use ovens or stoves to heat your home.
- Do not use charcoal or gas grills inside or operate outdoors near a window where CO fumes could seep in through a window.
- Keep chimneys clear of animal nests, leaves, and residue to ensure proper venting. Have all fireplaces cleaned and inspected by a licensed professional annually.
- Have a licensed professional inspect heating systems and other fuel-burning appliances annually.
- Have qualified professionals install fuel-burning appliances and operate according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Do not use unvented gas or kerosene space heaters in enclosed spaces. Keep doors open to the rest of the house to help promote proper ventilation.

- Open the fireplace damper before lighting a fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool to avert the buildup of carbon monoxide, especially at night while families sleep.
- Do not run a fuel-powered engine, such as a vehicle or generator, inside the home or in an attached garage or carport. CO fumes can seep into the home through air intake valves, baseboards, doors, and windows.

Fire Prevention

- Ensure that space heaters meet the latest safety standards, which would include having an automatic cut-off device and protective guarding around the heating coils and burners.
- Place space heaters on a level, hard, and nonflammable surface and keep them at least three feet away from bedding, drapes, furniture, and other flammable materials.
- Turn off space heaters when you leave the room or before going to sleep. Keep children and pets away.
- Never use gasoline, charcoal lighter, or other fuel to light or relight a fire because the vapors could explode. Keep all flammable materials away. ❖

Babysitting List

Maggie Craig (age 16) 301-260-2847
 Chezley Polk (age 16) 301-924-1908
 Justin Stine (age 15) 301-570-4261

To be included in the next newsletter, please send the names of others interested in babysitting to David Sager at davids4001@gmail.com. ❖