

# NEWSLETTER

## HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on the following dates: Tuesday, September 8 (O'Loughlin residence); and Thursday, November 12 (Milke residence). All homeowners are welcome to attend. ❖

## HOA Web Site

The Brookeville Farms HOA web site is located at [www.bfmdhoa.info](http://www.bfmdhoa.info). This site includes information pertaining to the HOA such as Architectural Review forms, minutes from previous board meetings, current and previous newsletters, as well as contact information for board members.

## Community E-Mail List

The Brookeville Farms community maintains an e-mail distribution list to make it easier to communicate with our neighbors. The e-mail address is "[bfneighbors@bfmdhoa.info](mailto:bfneighbors@bfmdhoa.info)". This list has been used to find recommendations for service providers, find carpool buddies, and to participate in group purchasing agreements (like, propane and whole-house generators). The Homeowners Association newsletter is also distributed to this list.

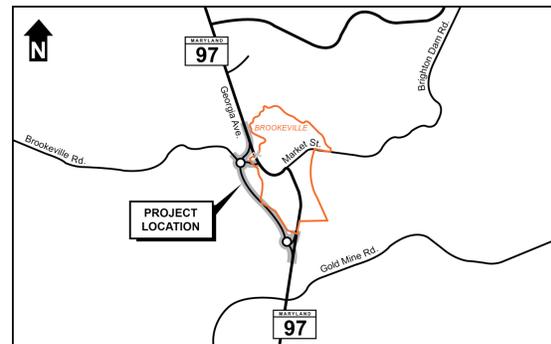
To add, change, or remove your e-mail address to the list do the following:

- Using your web browser, go to the HOA web site - [www.bfmdhoa.info](http://www.bfmdhoa.info).
- Select "E-mail List" from the left column.
- Fill in the form at the bottom of the page. ❖

## Brookeville Bypass - Update

In the July 2013 HOA Newsletter, it was noted that work had begun on the Brookeville Bypass. The Bypass is intended to relieve traffic in downtown Brookeville and speed traffic not destined for the town. At that time, the planning phase had been completed and preliminary engineering had begun with a surveying effort. The bypass is designed to detour north-south traffic to the west of the Town of Brookeville. The northern end of the bypass is currently planned to reconnect with Georgia Avenue south of Bordly Drive. According to the

Consolidated Transportation Program FY 2015-2020, the engineering and right-of-way phases are now in progress. Construction is expected to begin in the Summer of 2016. ❖



## Pepco Right-of-Way

Pepco maintains a right-of-way under the power lines that cross Bordly Drive near Lubar Way. No trespassing signs are posted. However, numerous neighbors have been disturbed by ATVs and motorbikes that enter the right-of-way and ride under the power lines. Thanks to the efforts of Board member Chrysa Thear, Pepco has erected additional barriers to prevent this. ❖

## Trash Collection

The HOA maintains a trash collection contract with Waste Management. Since inception, trash pickup has been scheduled for Wednesday and Saturday. Earlier this year, without notice, Waste Management changed the pickup days to Wednesday and Friday. This was not acceptable. Thanks to the efforts of Board member Jim Hanson, the pickup days were restored to Wednesday and Saturday.

If you think that a trash pickup has been missed, you may submit a customer service ticket. Go to the Waste Management web page ([www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com)), select "Customer Service", select "Contact Customer Service". On the "Contact Customer Service" page, select "Missed delivery or pickup", enter the requested information (note the our account number is 204-0037098-0275-9), and click the "Submit Request" button. ❖

## Recycle More Now

Montgomery County has a goal to reduce waste and recycle 70 percent by 2020. Do your part by recycling plastic, glass, aluminum, and metal products and all mixed paper including:

- Hardback, paperback, telephone books, file folders
- Coated paper items (milk/juice cartons, beverage cups, frozen food boxes)
- Magazines, catalogs, newspapers, inserts
- Writing, printing, & shredded paper
- Corrugated cardboard, paperboard boxes
- Unwanted mail & envelopes (with/without windows)

Make Recycling a Part of Every Workday! ❖

## Skin Cancer Prevention Tips

One in five Americans will develop skin cancer at some point in their lives, making it the most common type of cancer in the nation.

However, skin cancer is also one of the most preventable types of cancer, according to Dr. Mark Lebwohl, professor of dermatology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Health System in New York City and president-elect of the American Academy of Dermatology. "Fortunately, most skin cancers, even melanoma, can be cured and treated when detected early," he said in a Mount Sinai news release. "Knowing your own skin is the key to discovering skin cancer early on. See a dermatologist for a skin check if you notice a spot, mole or lump on your body that is changing, growing or bleeding." Lebwohl also offered the following skin cancer prevention tips:

- Apply sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or more to all areas of exposed skin every day throughout the year. Re-apply about every two hours, even on cloudy days.
- Wear protective clothing -- long-sleeved shirt and pants, wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses -- whenever possible. Never sunbathe and never use tanning beds.
- Get an annual skin checkup from a doctor and do skin self-checks every month to keep track of your brown spots and freckles. If you have a lot of brown spots, you might consider total body photography. This will provide your doctor with a photographic record of your moles and make it easier to spot any potentially dangerous changes.
- When checking your moles, keep in mind the ABCDEs. Alert your doctor if you find:
  - Asymmetry, where one half of the mole is different than the other half.
  - Borders that are irregular, scalloped or poorly defined.

- Color variations between areas of the mole, with shades of tan and brown, black, white, red or blue.

- Diameters that are the size of a pencil eraser (6 millimeters) or larger. However, be aware that some melanomas can be smaller.

- Evolving, when a mole appears different from the rest or is changing in size, shape and color.



## Cars and Heatstroke

Summer should be a time filled with the joy of catching fireflies, running through sprinklers, BBQs and time with family and friends. But it also holds hazards for children and pets. According to Safe Kids Worldwide, "heatstroke is the leading cause of non-crash, vehicle-related deaths for children. On average, every 10 days a child dies from heatstroke in a vehicle." Babies and young kids can keep you up all night, then fall asleep while you're driving and sleep so peacefully that we forget they are even there, especially if we are varying from our usual routine. As tempting as it may be to leave a sleeping baby in the car for a moment to run an errand, it is simply not worth the risk. Babies and toddlers' bodies heat up three to five times faster than an adult's. And let's not forget that countless animals die after being left in overheated cars each year, as well. These tragedies are completely preventable. Here's how we can all work together to keep kids in particular safe from heatstroke.

Reduce the number of deaths from heatstroke by remembering to ACT:

A: Avoid heatstroke-related injury and death by never leaving your child alone in a car, not even for a minute. And make sure to keep your car locked when you're not in it so kids don't get in on their own.

C: Create reminders by putting something in the back of your car next to your child such as a briefcase, a purse, work ID or a cell phone that is needed at your final destination. This is especially important if you're not following your normal routine, during busy times, schedule changes and periods of crisis or holidays.

T: Take action. If you see a child alone in a car, call 911. Emergency personnel want you to call. They are trained to respond to these situations. One call could save a life. And the same goes for any animals left alone in hot vehicles, which can heat up over 120F within minutes. No amount of cracked windows will protect them, so please call 911 if you see an animal at risk. ❖

## Forest and Open Space Conservation Easements

Many of the lots and common area within Brookeville Farms are burdened by open space and/or forest conservation easements. In the case of individual homeowner lots, the easements affect only a portion of the property, usually in the rear of the lot. In the two decades since the development was first laid out, many of the signs and other physical evidence of the boundaries of these areas have been lost, and some knowledge of the restrictions within these areas has been forgotten along with turnover in home ownership. Over the past few months, the Board and some individual lot owners have been contacted by Michael Sharp, a Senior Planner and Forestry Inspector with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the agency with responsibility for enforcing the open space and forest conservation laws and regulations. The HOA is working with the Commission staff to develop some recommendations to help clarify the restrictions and assist lot owners in complying with the law. There is some ambiguity in the language used 20 years ago to describe easements and the restrictions on use and maintenance depending on whether an area is designated as forest conservation or open space easement. For now, we have been advised to not change our current practices for maintaining the restricted areas. We will be in touch in the coming months with more information. In the meantime, please contact Board Member John O'Loughlin ([jboloughlin@verizon.net](mailto:jboloughlin@verizon.net)) if you have any questions. ❖

## Riggs Historic Site Update

As discussed at our annual HOA meeting, the Board has agreed to allow a team of volunteer archeologists to access the historic home of the Riggs family, Pleasant Hill, the ruins of which sit within part of the common area of Brookeville Farms. For those of you unfamiliar with Pleasant Hill, here is a brief summary. The land that includes what is now Brookeville Farms was part of an original land grant of approximately 1,000 acres from Charles Calvert, the Fifth Lord Baltimore, to Thomas Bordley in 1725. (Note that this is the correct spelling; the street signs are wrong.) Thomas Bordley died before settling on the land. His son sold Bordley's Choice to John Riggs, and when Riggs died the land was left to his five sons. On one portion, his son Samuel Riggs built the home known as Pleasant Hill in approximately 1769. The Pleasant Hill farm remained in the Riggs family for five generations until approximately 1913.

The Riggs home (pictured below) fell into ruin in the middle of the 20th century. All that remain today are the foundation, part of the porch and steps, collapsed chimneys, and some farm equipment. Nearby are the ruins of outbuildings and the Riggs family cemetery (the restoration of which was the Eagle Scout project of Justin Stine, a Brookeville Farms resident). The

archeology team has worked on other projects in and around Brookeville and is led by Robert Hines, an IB History teacher at Richard Montgomery High School. We will provide an update of their findings in the autumn. ❖



NO. 87 D. B. SAMUEL RIGGS CA. 1760 BRICK

## It's the Law

Having a pet is a big responsibility. As a dog owner, do you know of the law about picking up your dog's poop aka "the Pooper Scooper" law. If your dog does his business anywhere other than your yard you have to pick it up or risk getting a \$100 fine. The poop can be placed in a plastic bag. As long as this bag is then placed inside another plastic bag it's acceptable to put it in your regular household trash. ❖

"Suppose you were an idiot, and suppose you were a member of Congress; but I repeat myself." -- Mark Twain

"Weekends don't count unless you spend them doing something completely pointless." -- Bill Watterson