

# NEWSLETTER

## HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on the following dates: 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. ❖

## Historical Background

*The following facts are excerpted from a series of articles written by John O'Loughlin and published in the May, 2005 and February, 2006 editions of the HOA Newsletter.*

The land that is now Brookeville Farms was originally owned by Thomas Bordley and was known as Bordley's Choice (the origin of our misspelled Bordly Drive). In 1751, Bordley's Choice was sold to John Riggs. Samuel Riggs, the ninth child (out of twelve children!) of John and Mary Riggs became the first to create a permanent home at Bordley's Choice. For almost 150 years, several generations of the Riggs family enjoyed the land where we now live.

At the June meeting of the HOA Board of Directors, Justin Stine presented his Eagle Scout project to restore the site of the Riggs Family Cemetery. The Cemetery is on HOA property North of Bordly Drive and West of Abrams Court. The Board agreed to sponsor Justin's project. The following article is Justin's request to the community for assistance. ❖

## Help Wanted For Justin Stine's Eagle Scout Project!

Hello people of Brookeville and Olney,

My name is Justin Stine and I live in Brookeville Farms on Riggs Hill Way. My Boy Scout life is in the home stretch and it is now time for my Eagle Scout project. For my project I wish to restore the Riggs Family Cemetery in Brookeville Farms. It needs a lot

of work, including cutting up dead trees, clearing brush, and laying down wood chips. After that is done I wish to make two benches to put around the area and plant flowers around the tombstones. As you can see this is no easy job so I need all the help I can get. If you wish to help me please call me at my house at (301)570-4261. You can also reach me by email at [Justin.b.stine@gmail.com](mailto:Justin.b.stine@gmail.com). I hope to get this project going in early October because that's when the brush will be easier to clear and it won't be as hot out. Thanks and hope to see you guys there.

Your neighbor,

Justin B. Stine

Troop 264 ❖

## Tips to Keep Pets Safe

- Pet Proof the Home - Take a walk around your home and look for areas where pets might start fires inadvertently, such as the stove knobs, loose wires and other potential hazards.
- Secure Young Pets - Especially with young puppies, keep them confined away from spaces where they can get trapped, especially if there are any potential fire hazards when you are away from home, for example, knocking over a hot lamp onto a dry carpet.
- Extinguish Open Flames - Pets are naturally curious and will investigate almost anything that has a scent. This includes your oven, a candle, and even your fireplace. Do not leave pets unattended around open flames and make sure to properly extinguish fires before leaving your home.
- Have an escape route and plan - Keep collars and leashes near your front or back door (whichever you use more frequently or even at both) in case you have to evacuate quickly with your pet or firefighters need to rescue your pet.
- Affix a Pet Alert Window Sticker - Write down the number of pets inside your house and attach the sticker to a front window where it can be easily found by emergency responders. This critical information saves rescuers time when locating your pets. You can obtain a free window cling by going to [www.adt.com/](http://www.adt.com/)

[pets](#), or from the AKC ([www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)) and the ASPCA ([www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org)).

- Since Pets Left Alone Can't Escape a Burning Home - Consider using monitored smoke detectors that are connected to an emergency response center with people on hand who can call the fire department in your absence.
- Keep Your Information Updated - Firefighters are familiar with pet alert window stickers so keep the number of pets listed on them updated. Knowing the accurate number of pets in the house aids rescuers in finding all of your pets. ❖

## Grill Safety Tips

Summer is here and it's time to review grill safety. Every year, thousands of homes catch fire because of improper use of grills. Preparation is the key to staying safe when using grills this season.

Before you plan your next outdoor cookout, please review these safety tips:

- If you haven't used your grill in a while, give it a good cleaning. Scour the grate with a wire brush. Save future cleaning time by using a nonstick cooking spray to prevent food from sticking to the grill.
- Periodically, go online to check whether your grill has been recalled due to any dangerous defects.
- Position the grill in a well-ventilated, flat and level surface away from your house, overhangs, deck railings, tree branches, shrubbery and anything that can burn. Never use a grill indoors.
- Never leave a grill unattended – even for a minute – and supervise children and pets around the grill: declare a three-foot “kid-free zone” around the grilling area.
- Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled-up sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle over the grill and catch fire.

### For Gas Grills:

- Before grilling, follow the manufacturer's instructions for checking the connection to the cylinder. An easy way to do this is to tighten the connection, turn on the cylinder and then apply a soapy water solution around the connection. If bubbles appear, the connection is leaking. Turn the cylinder off, reconnect the cylinder and check again.
- Check grill hoses for cracking, corrosion, brittleness, holes and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.

- If repairs are needed, do not attempt to do them yourself. Enlist a professional.
- Always keep propane gas containers upright.
- Always open the lid of a grill before igniting it.
- Regularly remove grease and fat buildup in trays below the grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.
- If you smell gas, turn the grill off immediately and do not use it until it is repaired.
- Do not store tanks or other flammable materials near a grill, indoors or in a heated area such as a vehicle trunk. Propane tanks need to be stored in well-ventilated areas.

### For Charcoal Grills:

- Use the proper starter fluid and store the can out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- Never use any type of grill inside. Don't barbecue in the garage, even with the door open. Barbecues produce carbon monoxide, which can build up in an enclosed area. Carbon monoxide is invisible, colorless and tasteless -- but extremely dangerous. Instead, set up your grill in a corner of your deck or patio. Avoid grilling on a covered or enclosed porch or on top of anything that can catch on fire.
- Since charcoal produces carbon monoxide fumes until the charcoal is completely extinguished, do not store the grill indoors with freshly used coals.

Remember, when cooking outside - ALWAYS open the hood before lighting the grill. ALWAYS keep the grill in a safe area away from children, pets and heavy people traffic where someone could bump into it. NEVER try to grill inside and remember, it is best to grill 20 feet away from anything that can burn.

*Sources: NFPA, CPSC and the USEA ❖*

## 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](mailto:davids4001@gmail.com).