

# NEWSLETTER

## New HOA Board Members

Three homeowners were selected to fill vacant At-Large seats on the Board of Directors. They are:

Russ Craig  
Jim Hanson  
Peter Schmidt ❖

## Accomplishments for 2011

At the February Annual Meeting, a summary of the major accomplishments for the past year were presented. They are outlined below:

### Architectural

- Projects approved: 1 solar water heater.

### Landscaping

- Landscape service contract with Estes was renewed. They continue to perform well.
- At the west entrance: The dead white oak tree was removed.
- At the east entrance: The dead maple tree was removed; the junipers were trimmed.
- At the field on the corner of Lubar Way and Bordly Drive: The Inter-County Connector (ICC) reforestation project planted new trees.

### Communications

- Six HOA newsletters were published and distributed.
- The HOA web site [www.bfmdhoa.org](http://www.bfmdhoa.org) was kept up to date.

### Other

- Trash removal.
- The HOA Board voted to support Justin Stine's Eagle Scout Project to revitalize the Riggs' family cemetery located near the west entrance.
- The strange odor emanating from the west end of the community was investigated and rectified. ❖

## HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on the following dates: Thursday, April 19 (Sands residence); Tuesday, June 12 (Stine residence); Wednesday, September 12 (Wesolowski residence); and Thursday, November 15 (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. ❖

## Nice Jacket

by Dr. Steve Velling, Ashburn Village Animal Hospital, [www.ashburnanimals.com](http://www.ashburnanimals.com)

My mother sends me articles on animals all the time, and a while ago she sent me a clipping from Reader's Digest about a "Thundershirt". It claimed to calm dogs down during thunderstorms, which I thought was interesting but a bit hard to believe. But then we had Buddy the Beagle come in the hospital shortly after that for a routine appointment. Now Buddy is typically a very nervous dog, shaking and drooling the entire time he is in for his visit, even before we've done anything to him. But this time he came in wagging his tail, calmly sitting still while I examined him. I immediately noticed that he was wearing a grey fleece Thundershirt, and by the end I was truly impressed with how well he did. I asked Mrs. Jones if Buddy had been given any medication, and she just laughed and said that the shirt was the only change that she could think of. After that exam, I started to change my opinion about this shirt and decided to look into it a bit more.

The company says that the shirt acts by providing constant, gentle pressure over a variety of pressure points to bring "calm and focus" during stressful events. This does coincide with other theories and practices that use gentle pressure to provide comfort, such as a swaddling blanket for babies. However, I have also seen some people not use the shirt properly. One woman used a Thundershirt on her dog after a storm had already started, but by then it was too late to help calm him down. The dog then came to associate the shirt WITH the storm and became anxious even when the shirt was put on him prior to a storm. In addition, I have seen some

dogs that have such severe anxiety (from conditions such as separation anxiety or being abused by a housemate) that a Thundershirt simply was not enough and their condition required properly dosed medication and environmental changes.

Overall, the Thundershirt definitely has its place, and I would encourage you to consider using one if you have a nervous dog. Plus, they now come in some rather stylish colors so you can have a calmer, more well-dressed dog! ❖

## Break These Rules To Succeed At Work

Slavishly conforming to conventional wisdom about success at work won't necessarily lead to happiness and a fulfilling career. Think twice before following these common "rules" of work:

- "Just do your job." Your job description is a bare minimum. Fulfilling it means you'll probably keep your job, but you won't stand out when managers are deciding whom to promote. Push the envelope a little so your boss sees that you're committed to helping the organization, not safeguarding your position.
- "Never say 'No.'" You can't do everything, or know everything, or even attempt everything your boss asks you to. Be willing to admit that you don't have the answer, or that you don't have time for every assignment. Then work with your boss to solve the problem and accommodate his or her needs.
- "Always go for the promotion." You don't have to accept more responsibility than you're ready for, or a management position that doesn't match your goals. Pursuing advancement for its own sake may lead you on a career path you don't really want. Be sure of what you're going for, and let your manager know what you're interested in. Then get to work preparing yourself for the position you want.
- "Network constantly." Aim for quality, not quantity, when you network. A "contacts" list with 700 names of people who barely know you won't be much help when you need specific assistance; instead, be selective so you can maintain solid connections with people who can really help you with your career. ❖

## Voter Information

This is an election year. Here is voter registration and early voting information from the Montgomery County Board of Elections.

### CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE?

All residents of Montgomery County may register to vote, if they meet the following requirements:

- County resident
- United States citizen
- At least 16 years of age (you may register to vote at 16 but cannot vote until at least 18 years of age by the date of the next general or special election)
- Are not under guardianship for mental disability
- Have not been convicted of a felony, or if you have, you have completed serving a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment, including any term of parole or probation for the conviction.

### WHERE DO I REGISTER?

Voter Registration Applications are available in Montgomery County at :

- Montgomery County Post Offices
- Montgomery County Public Libraries
- Montgomery County Public Schools
- Montgomery College Campuses
- Montgomery County Government Regional Services Centers
- Montgomery County Community Health Centers
- Montgomery County Aging and Disability Services
- Montgomery County MVA Offices
- Montgomery County Licensing
- Montgomery County Register of Wills

Voter registration applications are also available from the Elections Office, 18753 North Frederick Avenue Suite 210, Gaithersburg. Our office hours are 8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; telephone (240) 777-8500. You may have a form mailed to you by calling our 24-hour voter information line at (240) 777-VOTE and leaving your name and address after the recorded message. Large type applications are available upon request by calling (240) 777-8507 or via email [elections@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:elections@montgomerycountymd.gov).

### WHEN CAN I REGISTER?

A voter registration application may be submitted to your local board of elections or the State Board of Elections at any time. However, an application must be postmarked by March 13, 2012, to vote in the Primary Election and October 16, 2012, to vote in the General Election. If you submit a voter registration application during the period that registration is closed, your application will be held at the local board of elections and processed when registration reopens. For the 2012 elections, registration will be closed from March 13, 2012 to April 16, 2012, and October 16, 2012 to November 19, 2012.

NOTE: You are not registered to vote until you receive a voter notification card from the Board of Elections.

If you have not received a card within three (3) weeks of sending in your voter registration application, please call the office at (240) 777-8500. The voter notification card includes your name, address, party affiliation, polling place location, and respective election districts.

#### IS MY REGISTRATION PERMANENT?

In Maryland, registration is permanent as long as you keep your Maryland address current. If you move within the state, you must notify the new jurisdiction of your change of address. If you move to another state, you must re-register in that jurisdiction.

#### HOW DO I UPDATE MY VOTER REGISTRATION?

I want to make a change to my (name, address, party affiliation) on my voter registration. What do I have to do?

All registered voters are required to keep their voter registration information current. This includes changes of name or address. Maryland law requires voters to notify their respective elections office of these changes within 30 days.

A change of name, address or party affiliation must be made in writing and signed by the voter. Changes can be made at any time voter registration is open.

Forms for voter registration changes are available at the Board of Elections. You may also send any changes in writing to the elections office. Please include your date of birth; original name, address, or party affiliation; the change you wish to make; sign and date the information, and mail or fax to: Montgomery County Board of Elections, P.O. Box 4333, Rockville, MD 20849-4333 FAX (240) 777-8600

NOTE: The changes to your voter registration are not effective until you receive a new voter notification card.

#### WHO CAN VOTE EARLY?

Any registered voter who is qualified for that election can vote during early voting.

#### WHEN CAN I VOTE EARLY?

Early voting for the 2012 Primary Election will take place Saturday, March 24, 2012 through Thursday, March 29, 2012. Early voting for the 2012 General Election will take place Saturday, October 27, 2012 through Thursday, November 1, 2012.

Early voting centers will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. each day of early voting except on Sundays, early voting centers will be open 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

#### WHERE CAN I VOTE EARLY?

You can vote at any of the following locations in Montgomery County:

- Bauer Drive Community Recreation Center, 14625 Bauer Drive, Rockville, MD 20853
- Germantown Community Recreation Center, 18905 Kingsview Road, Germantown, MD 20874
- Marilyn Praisner Community Center, 14906 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866
- Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850
- Silver Spring Civic Building, 8525 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Now, get out there and VOTE! ❖

## Boxwood Blight

Boxwood Blight has been causing defoliation of boxwoods throughout Europe since the late 1990's. In October, 2011, the disease was found in North Carolina and Connecticut in both nursery, and landscape plantings. The first Maryland case of Boxwood Blight was confirmed on plants from a landscaper's nursery in December, 2011.

The disease is caused by a fungus called *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum*. The first symptoms begin as leaf spots followed by rapid browning and leaf drop starting on the lower branches and moving upward in the canopy. The key symptoms that differentiate Boxwood Blight from other boxwood diseases are numerous narrow black cankers (black streaks) that develop on the green stems. The pathogen does not attack the roots, so larger plants may produce new leaves during the growing season, but may lose ornamental value as defoliation becomes severe. The fungus can remain alive in fallen leaves which can then serve as the source of infection for subsequent years.

American, English and Korean boxwoods are all susceptible to this new disease. Research is under way to test the effectiveness of fungicides for management of Boxwood Blight.

If you suspect you see boxwoods infected with this new disease, call the University of Maryland Extension at 800-342-2507 and speak to a horticulture consultant. ❖