

# NEWSLETTER

## New HOA Board Members

At the February Annual Meeting, four homeowners were selected to fill vacant At-Large seats on the Board of Directors. They are Chris Milke, David Sager, Bret Stine, and Mark Wesolowski. ❖

## Accomplishments for 2013

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

### Architectural Committee

- The Fence Guidelines were revised to include deer fencing.
- Guidelines for Play Equipment were written.
- Projects approved: 1 garage door, 1 shed, 2 walkways, 2 fences

### Landscaping Committee

- Landscape service contract with Estes was renewed.
- Some pine trees on the HOA easement on Lot 1 were removed.

### Communication Committee

- Four HOA newsletters were published and distributed by email.
- The HOA web site was kept up to date

### Other

- Trash removal ❖

## HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on the following dates: Thursday, April 17 (Sands residence); Tuesday, June 10 (Stine residence); Wednesday, September 10 (Hanson residence); and Thursday, November 13 (Craig 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.

For those with a smartphone and a QR code (Quick Response code) application, you may scan the following QR code to quickly access the HOA web site.



## 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 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. ❖

## Recycling

Montgomery County collects recyclable paper, cardboard, newspapers, bottles, and cans on Thursday. Please use the blue containers provided by the County. You should place your recycling containers at the end of your driveway late the night before or early in the morning. Please retrieve your recycling containers as soon as possible following pickup.

If recycling day falls on a holiday, the recycling will be picked up the next day. The charge for recycling is included in your County tax bill.

If you want a reminder about recycling collection service changes due to upcoming holidays, you may sign up for email reminders at: <http://goo.gl/JH70TK>

The 2014 Holiday Calendar for Recycling is on the following page. ❖

## Olney Library

The long-awaited reopening of the Olney Library is scheduled for March 15. It closed in December 2010. The renovation expands the building from 16,825 to 22,574 square feet. Among the significant changes will be a more inviting meeting room space that will accommodate approximately ninety people. The meeting room will also have the capacity to be divided into two smaller spaces so that two programs or meetings could be held concurrently. A new children's room will provide a spacious area for children and their families to learn, explore and create in a well-lit and child-friendly environment. There will also be a young adult area where Olney teens can learn and collaborate in a space designed specifically for their needs.

You may contact Joseph Eagan, the Olney Library Manager, for further information at 240-777-0036 or [joseph.eagan@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:joseph.eagan@montgomerycountymd.gov). ❖

## Driving in Fog - Safety Tips

Fog can be thought of as a cloud at ground level. It forms when the temperature drops to the dew point (the temperature at which air is saturated), and invisible water vapor in the air condenses to form suspended water droplets. Fog can reduce visibility to 1/4 mile or less, creating hazardous driving conditions. If you can't postpone your trip until dense fog lifts -- usually by late morning or the afternoon -- follow these tips:

- \* Drive with lights on low beam. High beams will only be reflected back off the fog and actually impair visibility even more.
- \* Reduce your speed -- and watch your speedometer. Fog creates a visual illusion of slow motion when you may actually be speeding.
- \* Listen for traffic you cannot see. Open your window a little, to hear better.
- \* Use wipers and defrosters as necessary for maximum visibility.
- \* Use the right edge of the road or painted road markings as a guide.
- \* Be patient. Do not pass lines of traffic.

- \* Do not stop on a highway or heavily traveled road. If your car stalls or becomes disabled, turn your vehicle's lights off, and take your foot off of the brake pedal. People tend to follow tail lights when driving in fog. Move away from the vehicle to avoid injury. ❖

## Preventing Mail Theft

There have been recent reports in the Washington Post of thefts from mailboxes. In several instances, outgoing checks to utility companies were stolen, altered, and cashed. In other cases, incoming mail, including packages of merchandise, have been stolen. As we have "standalone" mailboxes in front of our homes, what can we do to avoid being a victim of such thefts?

- Outgoing mail: Do not place outgoing mail with checks in your mailbox. As an alternative to using the U.S. mail for any bill payments, you may want to consider the online payment service offered by your own bank.
- Incoming mail: The USPS recommends that you promptly remove all incoming mail from your mailbox, which may not be easy to do if you are not at home all day. Credit cards, checks, bank statements, and other mail can be misused by identity thieves, so consider installing a secure, lockable mailbox in front of your home. There are a limited selection of these in the local home improvement stores, but Home Depot, Lowes, and Amazon websites sell a wide variety of secure mailboxes. This is safer than an unlocked box and much more convenient than renting a box at a Post Office.
- Postal services: Nearby post offices are located in Sunshine (22311 Georgia Ave), Olney (3570 Olney Laytonsville Rd), Leisure World Plaza (3802 International Dr), Sandy Spring (901 Olney Sandy Spring Rd), and Ashton (19 Olney Sandy Spring Rd). Additionally, blue collection boxes are located at the Olandwood Professional Center (3405 Olandwood Ct, Olney), the Brookeville Academy (5 High St, Brookeville), the Olney Professional Park (2907 Olney Sandy Spring Rd, Olney), and the Montgomery General Hospital - Physicians Office Building #1 (18111 Prince Philip Dr, Olney). ❖

## 2014 Montgomery County Holiday Calendar for County-provided Recycling and Trash Collections

If your normal collection day is Thursday

For the holiday week of	Your collection day this week is
New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1, 2014	Friday, January 3, 2014
Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 20, 2014	Friday, January 24, 2014
Presidents Day, Monday, February 17, 2014	Friday, February 21, 2014
Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 2014	Friday, May 30, 2014
Independence Day, Friday, July 4, 2014	Thursday, July 3, 2014 (no change) *
Labor Day, Monday, September 1, 2014	Friday, September 5, 2014
Columbus Day, Monday, October 13, 2014	Thursday, October 16, 2014 (no change) *
Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11, 2014	Friday, November 14, 2014
Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27, 2014	Friday, November 28, 2014
Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, 2014	Friday, December 26, 2014
New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1, 2015	Friday, January 2, 2015



Montgomery County, Maryland, Division of Solid Waste Services  
Get next year's calendar at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/holidays](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/holidays)