



# Home Owners Association Newsletter

March 2008

## HOA Officers Elected

The HOA Board of Directors have elected the following officers for the 2008 calendar year:

President: David Sager

Secretary: Randy Sands

Treasurer: Russ Craig ❖

## HOA Board Members

Along with the HOA officers listed above, the following neighbors are At-Large members of the Board of Directors:

Lisa Barksdale

Ed Herron

John O'Loughlin

Randy Sands

Peter Schmidt

Debbie Stine

Mark Wesolowski ❖

## HOA Board Meetings

Regular HOA Board meetings will be held at the Longwood Community Center from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on the following dates: Thursday, May 8, Thursday, August 14, and Wednesday, November 19. All homeowners are welcome to attend. ❖

## Volunteers Needed

The HOA is a volunteer organization. Without your support, there will be no HOA. Volunteers are needed for the Architectural Review Committee, the Communications Committee, and the Landscape and Grounds Committee. If you would like to help, please contact the respective committee chairperson:

Debbie Stine - [debstine@verizon.net](mailto:debstine@verizon.net)

David Sager - [david.sager@jhuapl.edu](mailto:david.sager@jhuapl.edu)

Mark Wesolowski - [markweso@hotmail.com](mailto:markweso@hotmail.com) ❖

## HOA Web Site

There is an HOA web site located at <http://www.geocities.com/bfmdhoa/>. This web 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. ❖

## Newsletter Articles

If you would like to submit information to appear in the next HOA newsletter, or for any inquiries, please send them to David Sager ([david.sager@jhuapl.edu](mailto:david.sager@jhuapl.edu)). ❖

## Trash Collection

Our trash collection contractor, Waste Management, is scheduled to pick up trash on Wednesday and Saturday. Please have your trash by the street by 7:00 A.M. the day of pickup. All trash should be contained in cans with lids. If your trash does not get picked up on the scheduled day, please call the Waste Management dispatcher at 301-840-0211 ext. 523 or ext. 522. ❖

## Recycling

Montgomery County collects recyclable paper, cardboard, newspapers, bottles, and cans on Thursday mornings. 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. ❖

## Street Light Not Working?

Do you know of a street light in the community that is not working properly? Is it out, broken, or on all day? If so, you may contact Lisa Barksdale (301-570-9441 or [lisa.barksdale@verizon.net](mailto:lisa.barksdale@verizon.net)) who will report it to the proper authorities. Please provide the number that is affixed to the pole and a detailed description of the location of the light pole. ❖

## Crime Reports

CrimeReports.com provides a near real-time view of crime in a community. Law enforcement agencies use it to share crime data with the public. Thanks to Peter Schmidt for providing information on this site. ❖

## Street Corner Repair

The corners at the intersection of Riggs Hill Way with Bordly Drive have become an eyesore. Vehicles tend to cut these corners too sharply causing deep gouges and gullies. They fill with water during rains making a muddy and slippery hazard for vehicles and pedestrians.

Board member Peter Schmidt brought this to the attention of the Montgomery County Department of Public Works and requested the installation of curbs, as was done at Lubar Way and Bordly Drive. The County responded stating that the installation of curbs, which might solve the corner cutting and tire ruts problem, would create other drainage problems and require installation of very costly underground storm drain systems that is not warranted in this area. Instead, they proposed to backfill and grade the ruts and depressions and to install delineators (also known as flags). The delineators are flexible 3-foot tall plastic tubes which will mark the edge of pavement and discourage drivers from cutting the corner. ❖

## Tree Trimming

Please remember to trim any trees that encroach on the sidewalk along Bordly Drive. Tree branches should be trimmed up to a height of 8 feet above the sidewalk and 13.5 feet above the street. The HOA pays a landscaping firm to trim the trees along the common areas. Property owners are responsible for all trees in the public right-of-way (the area between the sidewalk and the street) along their property.

Here is a link to a publication from the Iowa State University Extension with tips on pruning trees:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/SUL5.pdf>

Please remember to use caution when using ladders or extension tools. It is also a good idea to wear protective gear, such as gloves and safety goggles, when trimming trees. ❖

## Gardening Tips for March

Debbie D. Dillion, Urban Horticulturist, Loudoun County Extension

- Once new growth begins on trees and shrubs, cut back winter-killed twigs to living, green wood.
- Prune evergreen shrubs before growth starts.
- Boxwood should be pruned by thinning the outer foliage of the plant and cutting back the branches to retain the desired height.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after flowering is done.
- Hedges can receive their first pruning this month. As you prune, be sure to leave the base of the plant wider than the top. This allows sunlight to get to the bottom of the plant, creating a full, dense hedge.
- Don't leave stubs when pruning; stubs usually die and are entry points for decay fungus. Cut just outside the branch collar, the slightly thickened area at the base of the branch. Pruning should never be done in damp or wet weather when the fungal spores and bacteria that infect plants through fresh wounds spread easily.
- When pruning or cutting roses, cut all flower stems one quarter inch above a complete (five leaflet) leaf, leaving two complete leaves below the cut bud. Always use sharp, pruning shears and cut on a slant. ❖