



Home Owners Association Newsletter

May 2008

HOA

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, 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

David Sager - david.sager@jhuapl.edu

Mark Wesolowski - 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). ❖

The Brookeville Farms Oak

The site of the Brookeville Farms oak tree, located at the West entrance to the community, is looking better. The

Board had the area surrounding the tree cleared. Soon the dead limbs on the tree will be removed and the tree will be fertilized.

Though much work has been done, more is needed. Volunteers are requested to keep the site looking good. If you would like to help, please contact Mark Wesolowski (markweso@hotmail.com) or David Sager (david.sager@jhuapl.edu). ❖



Hazardous Waste Disposal

Some household products may be considered hazardous materials. Improper disposal of these hazardous materials may harm the environment and/or human health. Montgomery County has a staffed Household Hazardous Waste receiving area (open 9 am - 5 pm, Sunday through Saturday) at the Transfer Station on Route 355 in Rockville. It is free of charge! For a list of accepted items go to the Solid Waste Services page at the Montgomery County web site (www.montgomerycountymd.gov). ❖

Are You Picking Up After Your Dog?

Now that it is warmer and folks are strolling around, it is apparent that some pet owners are not dutifully picking up after their dog. Please remember to do so. It is the owner's responsibility to clean up the feces immediately.

According to the EPA, a single gram of dog feces may contain up to 23 million fecal bacterial coli forms. Bacteria and parasites that can be transmitted to humans and other dogs are often found in dog waste. Canine parvovirus is a highly contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the gastrointestinal tract. Dogs usually become infected when they ingest the virus that is passed in the feces of an infected dog. Canine parvovirus is resistant to changes in environmental conditions and can survive for long periods of time.

Even our area's beautiful waterways are put at risk by pet waste, which contains nutrients that promote the formation of algae. As the algae grow, it enters and overwhelms the streams and tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, destroying habitats for aquatic life such as fish, oysters and crabs. The only way to avoid such dangers is the prompt, proper clean-up and disposal of pet waste. It may not be your ideal task, but along with accepting the responsibility to feed and house your dog, you have taken on the responsibility of its hygiene. Cleaning up pet waste is good for your health, your dog's health, and the environment. ❖

Gardening Tips

Debbie D. Dillion, Urban Horticulturist, Loudoun County Extension

- The best time to plant shrubs and trees is on a windless, cloudy day.
- Once new growth begins on trees and shrubs, cut back to green wood any twigs affected by winter kill.
- Don't coat pruning cuts with tree paint or wound dressing. This won't prevent decay or promote wound closure.
- Prune roses to buds that point outward to encourage good air and sunlight penetration. Dark-colored canes indicate dead wood. Cut back an inch below these dark-

ened areas. If no live buds are left, remove the entire cane or branch.

- Prune spring-blooming shrubs, such as forsythia, weigela, and early spirea after they have completed flowering.
- Hydrangea is one gift plant that transplants well into the garden after its flowers fade. When the weather warms, plant in well-drained soil in full sun to partial shade. Don't be surprised if the next year's flowers are a different color than the first year. Blue or pink hydrangea color is dependent on the pH of the soil. Alkaline soil produces pink flowers; acidic soil produces blue flowers. White hydrangeas are not affected by soil pH.
- If dogwood leaves have been small, sparse, and pale, the trees may need fertilizer. Request a soil sample kit from your Extension office and collect a soil sample from the area beneath the trees. Mail your sample, form, and payment and correct fertilizer recommendations will be returned with the test results. ❖

Security Tips

Now that it is warmer, we are spending more time out of doors. Unfortunately, this also applies to those interested in easy profit through crime. To make it harder and, therefore, unattractive for these folks to target us, you may want to take the following precautions:

- ◆ Park cars in garages, if at all possible.
- ◆ Keep the garage door closed, even if you are at home.
- ◆ Always lock car doors (even in the garage).
- ◆ Do not leave valuables inside your car.
- ◆ If you have to park your car outside the garage, remove the garage door opener.
- ◆ Never leave your keys inside the car.
- ◆ Never leave your car running unattended.
- ◆ Keep your house doors locked.

If you observe any suspicious activity, call the Montgomery County Police at 301-279-8000. ❖