

NEWSLETTER

HOA Officers

The homeowners association officers for the 2020 calendar year are:

President: David Sager

Secretary: Randy Sands

Treasurer: Phil Craig ❖

HOA Board Members

The following are At-Large members of the Board of Directors:

Shane Hickey

Chris Milke

John O'Loughlin

Bret Stine

Chrysa Thear

Mark Wesolowski ❖

HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. For 2021, the dates are: Thursday, January 7; Tuesday, February 2 (Annual meeting); Thursday, April 8; Tuesday, June 8; Thursday, September 9; and Thursday, November 4. Until social distancing restrictions are removed, these meetings will be virtual. All homeowners are welcome to attend. ❖

HOA Web Site

The Brookeville Farms HOA web site is located at 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. ❖

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". 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.
- Select "E-mail List" from the left column.
- Fill in the form at the bottom of the page. ❖

Neighborhood Theft

Our neighborhood is relatively safe. That, however, does not mean that crime is nonexistent. Most reported crimes in our neighborhood are minor. Over the approximate 25-year history of Brookeville Farms, there have been thefts from vehicles, thefts from sheds, graffiti painted on walls and driveways, mailboxes knocked down, and trash dumped in yards. You can protect yourself from theft by following these steps:

- Lock your vehicle, whether parked in the street or in your garage.
- Do not leave any valuables inside your vehicle. If this is unavoidable, keep the valuables out of sight.
- Utilize some type of anti-theft device on your vehicle. installing an alarm-system, a steering-wheel lock or an immobilizer are a few wise choices.
- Do not leave keys in the vehicle.
- Never leave your car running.
- Keep your garage doors closed.
- Keep your shed doors closed. ❖

Ways to Protect Your Home While on Vacation

With a few simple steps, you can lower your home's risk of being targeted and compromised by burglars.

- Ask Someone to Keep an Eye on Things - Build relationships with your neighbors, so that when you go away, you can ask them to be the first line of defense while you're gone, and you can return the favor when they're away. You'll also want to give them your vacation contact information, just in case of emergency.

- Install Timers on Your Electronics - A dark house at night for a week straight is a sure sign that someone away.
- Stop the Mail - An overflowing mailbox and a pile of packages on the front step are clear indications that someone hasn't been home for a while.
- Leave the Blinds Open (If You Normally Do) - It may seem strange and you might feel that you don't want anyone peeping into your home while you're not there, but it's also an obvious giveaway to burglars that something is outside the normal routine.
- Beware of Social Media - Posting vacation photos online broadcasts to the world that you aren't home right now, and your stuff is ripe for the taking.
- Lock Everything - Before you leave for a vacation, go through the house and lock absolutely every window and every door.
- Don't Leave Spare Keys Out - If you have a spare key hidden somewhere — under a mat, attached to a mailbox, in a fake rock — now is the time to remove them and stow them away. If a would-be thief knows you're away, they'll feel free to take their time in searching for spare keys. They also know all the most common hiding spots way better than you do, so don't try fooling them.
- Lock the Garage Door
- Don't Lead Burglars to Your Home With Your GPS - Many a GPS, either the portable or built-in style, has led thieves directly to unsuspecting homes. When a car is left at the airport, a bad guy can break in, turn on the GPS unit and often find out exactly where home is. If you have a portable unit, don't leave it in the car either at the airport, or in your hotel parking lot at night if you're road-tripping.
- Stash Valuables in the Safe
- Consider Hiring a House Sitter for Long Trips ❖

First Aid Kit for Dogs

The ideal first aid kit for dogs should include items that the dog owner feels comfortable using. Some dog owners are trained in first aid and can make their kits more elaborate. But, for the average dog owner, the following list will make an adequate first aid kit:

- Three rolls of three-inch gauze
- Gauze pads, a variety of sizes is ideal
- Adhesive tape (nonstick)
- Self-clinging wrap
- Antibiotic salve
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Alcohol and alcohol wipes
- Tweezers
- Scissors
- Liquid diphenhydramine elixir (Benedryl)
- Eye wash liquid or sterile water

- Cotton balls
- Paper Towels
- Bath towels
- Large plastic garbage bags
- Veterinarian contact information, including emergency clinics and poison control numbers

In addition to these items, a blanket or large towel can be used as a stretcher to transport an injured dog. Empty, cleaned, two-liter soda bottles can be filled with warm or cold water to warm a cold animal or cool an overheated animal. Cold water also helps to reduce swelling. If these extra items cannot fit into the first aid kit, they can be kept nearby for easy access.

The first aid kit items should be stored in an easy to open, transportable box that has a handle. Plastic tackle or toolboxes work well. They have compartments or trays that help organize the first aid items. Clearly label the box "Dog First Aid Kit".

For items that have a shelf life, be sure to date the item with a permanent pen and replace the item before it expires. the date, as well as make it easy to spot.

If an emergency should occur where there's more than one person on site, let the person most trained in first aid handle dressing injuries. This is especially true if the dog's owner is too emotional to make the correct decisions. Keep in mind that the purpose of administering first aid is to stabilize the dog until he can be taken to the veterinarian. If the incident occurs away from home (beyond traveling distance to your regular veterinarian), having the contact information for a local emergency veterinary clinic with you can save your dog's life.

It's always a good idea to take a canine first aid course. Study a book, video, or ask your veterinarian for tips. Being prepared is the first step in first aid. ❖

Social Engineering

A common misconception about cyber attackers is that they use only highly advanced tools and techniques to hack into peoples' computers or accounts. Cyber attackers have learned that the easiest ways to steal your information, hack your accounts, or infect your systems is by simply tricking you into doing it for them using a technique called social engineering.

Here are two real-world examples:

1. You receive a phone call from someone claiming to be from the government informing you that your taxes are overdue and that if you do not pay them right away you will be fined or arrested.

They then pressure you to pay over the phone with a credit card, gift card, or wire transfer warning you that if you don't pay you could go to jail. The caller is not really from the government, but an attacker attempting to trick you into giving them money.

2. An email attack called phishing. Attackers create an email that attempts to trick you into taking an action, such as opening an infected email attachment, clicking on a malicious link, or giving up sensitive information. Sometimes phishing emails are generic and easy to spot, such as pretending to come from a bank. Other times phishing emails can be highly customized and targeted, such as a phishing email pretending to come from your boss or colleague.

Keep in mind, social engineering attacks like these are not limited to phone calls or email; they can happen in any form including text message, over social media, or even in person. Fortunately, common sense is your best defense. If something seems suspicious or does not feel right, it may be an attack. The most common clues include:

- A tremendous sense of urgency or crisis. The attackers are attempting to rush you into making a mistake. The greater the sense of urgency, the more likely it is an attack.
- Pressure to bypass or ignore security policies or procedures you are expected to follow at work.
- Requests for sensitive information they should not have access to or should already know, such as your account numbers.
- An email or message from a friend or coworker that you know, but the message does not sound like them - perhaps the wording is odd or the signature is not right.
- An email that appears to be from a coworker or legitimate company, but the email is sent using a personal email address such as @gmail.com.
- Playing on your curiosity or something too good to be true. For example, you are notified your package was delayed, even though you never ordered a package or that you've won a prize in a contest that you never entered.

If you suspect someone is trying to trick or fool you, do not communicate with the person anymore. Remember, common sense is your best defense. ❖

Is Carpet In or Out?

The choice between hard surfaces and carpeting in the home has always shifted back and forth. In the 1940s, hardwood reigned supreme. In the 1970s, carpets took over with trendy options like sculptured

or shag carpets. When considering what's in style now, particularly if you are buying or remodeling a home, you can weigh several options. Let's take a closer look at popular choices.

Refinishing Hardwood Floors

If your home has hardwood floors, especially the original floor, it would be a worthwhile investment to refinish them. When buying a new house, look at what's under the carpet to see whether the hardwood is worth keeping. Then create a strategy to refinish them. If the floors require a lot of work, it's best to hire a professional. Otherwise, you may be able to give them a light sand and seal.

Installing Engineered Floors

Carpet isn't an option for a lot of people, in some cases, because of pets or allergies. Some people simply don't like the look or feel of carpeting. In any case, several alternatives to hardwood floors can work well. Engineered floors come in a variety of styles, including a wood-look. The price of engineered floors can vary depending on what you want.

Selecting Natural or Eco-Friendly Carpet

A big carpet trend right now is natural or eco-friendly carpeting. The manufacturing process as well as the materials used can create a sustainable and durable product for the home. If this is the direction you want to go, look for natural fibers or recycled materials.

Opting for Bold Color and Patterns

You may recall a time when carpeting made a statement. The shag and sculpture carpets of the 1960s and 1970s eventually gave way to the bland, neutral carpeting that dominated the market in the 1990s and 2000s. Today, people are returning to more colors and patterns in their carpeting choices. ❖

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." — Thomas A. Edison

"You have the right to remain silent. Please exercise it." — Unknown