

NEWSLETTER

New HOA Web Site

Due to changes in service providers, the name of the Brookeville Farms homeowners association web site has changed. It is now located at <http://www.bfmdhoa.org/>. Please change any bookmarks you may have to the old site name. The new site still includes information pertaining to the homeowners association such as ARC forms, minutes from previous board meetings, current and previous newsletters, as well as contact information for board members. ❖

Community E-Mail List

As noted in previous newsletters, there is a community e-mail list to make it easier to communicate with our neighbors in the Brookeville Farms community. It is the e-mail address "bfneighbors@prstech.com".

Everyone in the community should subscribe. There are many benefits such as, finding recommended service providers, finding carpool buddies, and establishing joint purchasing agreements (such as one recently established for propane). There are also plans to use e-mail to distribute this newsletter. To subscribe, please send an e-mail to Peter Schmidt at peter@prstech.com. ❖

HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held at the Longwood Community Center from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. The last meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday, November 18. All homeowners are welcome to attend. ❖

Newsletter Articles

If you would like to submit an article to appear in the next homeowners association newsletter, or for any inquiries, please send them to David Sager (davids4001@gmail.com). ❖

Architectural Review Committee

Homeowners are reminded that except for the purposes of proper maintenance and repair, no building or improvements may be made to any structure without prior consent of the Architectural

Review Committee (ARC). An application form may be found on the HOA web site (<http://www.bfmdhoa.org/>). ❖

"Rainscape" Your Property

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection Rainscapes program is seeking property owners to improve storm water runoff conditions by installing more natural drainage projects.

The Rainscapes Program is a voluntary program that provides the opportunity for residents to participate in the effort to improve local water quality. These projects are designed to slow rainwater runoff and reduce the amount of storm water entering local streams, increase groundwater supply, and reduce chemical and nutrient pollutants entering waterways. Other environmental benefits of these projects include reduced energy consumption, and air pollution from lawn mowers, reduced water use for irrigation during droughts, and increased biodiversity in the suburban landscape. These unique landscaping enhancements can also add value to your property.

The Rainscapes Rewards rebate program began on January 1, 2008. Single-family residential property owners may receive a financial reward of up to \$1,200 per residential lot, depending on project type and actual costs.

Financial rewards will be granted for the new installation of:

- Rain gardens
- Replacement of turf grass with conservation landscapings utilizing native plants
- Creation of new urban tree canopy
- Replacement of existing impervious cover with permeable pavers
- Green roofs
- Rain barrels
- Cisterns
- Dry wells

More information on the Rainscapes program may be found at <http://>

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Content/DEP/Rainscapes/home.html. ❖

Meter Feeding

Residents may not be aware that it is illegal to re-feed a parking meter in most jurisdictions in the country, including Montgomery County. These prohibitions exist to assist the business community by increasing the availability of parking for their customers. For example, during an eight hour period, four different patrons will be able to park in front of a business with a two-hour meter, as opposed to potentially one long-term parker.

To avoid being ticketed, those who park at meters should never re-feed the same meter to get more parking time. If an on-street meter expires, a car must move to another block. For example, if a car is parked in the 800 block of a street, the car cannot park in another parking space on that block (including across the street). Any address within the 800 address block would be considered the same block.

For parking meters in lots and garages, the entire lot and garage are considered part of the limit, so a vehicle cannot just move to another space with the same duration parking meter within that facility. If a person parks at a two-hour space in a garage, they can always move to a 15-hour space once their time is up. They are not required to leave the facility, but they cannot move to a new two-hour space without risking a parking ticket.

For more information on parking rates and regulations, go to the Division of Parking Management's website (<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/parking>). ❖

No More Excuses! – Get Started With Your Exercise Program

We all know that we should exercise and most of us have what seem like pretty good reasons to avoid it. Here are some of the most common, along with some common-sense responses:

- “I don’t have any spare time.” The truth is that we make time for what’s important to us. Schedule exercise into your day like any other appointment.
- “Exercise is boring.” The key is finding something you like. Look for team sports, group activities, or interesting surroundings to keep your mind as well as your body occupied.

- “I’m too out of shape.” Just don’t overdo it at first. Check with your doctor for suggestions, and start with low-impact activities such as swimming or bike riding.

- “I’m not fat.” Good, but exercise is about more than losing weight. You want to maintain your health, and also control cholesterol and prevent heart disease—both benefits of regular exercise.

- “I don’t like going to gyms.” If the gym scene isn’t for you—or it’s too expensive—look for an exercise routine that doesn’t call for a lot of equipment, like running or lifting a few weights at home. A brisk walk helps, too. ❖

How To Outsmart A Fly

We’ve all been there—armed with a flyswatter or rolled-up newspaper and chasing futilely after a tiny winged creature. Turns out, scientists say, that those lowly flies are using some pretty amazing brainpower when it comes to outsmarting us and outmaneuvering our swatters.

Here’s what happens: The minuscule fly is confronted with the image of a threatening-looking swatter, California Institute of Technology researcher Michael Dickinson says. (It’s little wonder the fly noticed: It has a near 360-degree field of view and can see behind itself.) Then with its teensy-weensy brain, the insect calculates the exact location of the impending threat, generates an escape plan, and hops very efficiently out of harm’s way.

So what’s a human to do? Once the fly spots the swatter, you have about 100 milliseconds before it finishes analyzing and strategizing, Dickinson says. Your best bet at making every swat count is to refrain from hitting the fly in its starting position. Instead, Dickinson suggests aiming a bit forward—trying to anticipate which direction the fly is going to jump when it first detects your “weapon.” ❖

Just Being Neighborly

Two neighbors were arguing over whose dog was smarter.

“My dog is so smart that every morning he waits for the paperboy to arrive, gets my paper out of the mailbox, and then brings it to me.”

“I know,” said the other neighbor.

“How do you know?” the first neighbor asked.

“My dog told me.” ❖