

# NEWSLETTER

## HOA Board Meetings

The last regular Board of Directors meeting of the year will be held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on Tuesday, November 13 at the Milke 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. ❖

## 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

Recycling is the process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash and turning them into new products. Recycling can benefit your community and the environment.

Recycling:

- Reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills and incinerators.
- Conserves natural resources such as timber, water and minerals.
- Increases economic security by tapping a domestic source of materials.

- Prevents pollution by reducing the need to collect new raw materials.
- Saves energy.
- Supports American manufacturing and conserves valuable resources.
- Helps create jobs in the recycling and manufacturing industries in the United States.

Montgomery County recycles the following items:

### GLASS JARS & BOTTLES

- Unbroken glass jars and bottles only.
- No other kinds of glass. Lids can be recycled, but remove these from the bottle or jar first.
- Rinse and leave labels on.

### PLASTICS BOTTLES & CONTAINERS

- Jars, tubs, lids/caps, pails/buckets, flower pots, and #1 PET thermoform plastics including: clamshell containers, bakery trays and cake domes, deli containers and trays, fruit and vegetable containers and baskets, cups, tubs and lids.
- Empty and rinse containers; labels are OK. Lids and caps can be recycled, but remove these from bottles or containers first. No plastic wrap/bags or styrofoam/polystyrene.

### NO PLASTIC BAGS!

- Plastic bags can be recycled at most local grocery stores.

### CANS & FOIL PRODUCTS

- Aluminum and bi-metal (steel/tin) food and beverage cans, aluminum foil products and empty non-hazardous aerosol cans.
- Rinse cans and wipe foil. Attached lids are okay. No aerosol cans that contained automotive or hazardous products.

### MIXED PAPER AND CARDBOARD

- Cardboard boxes, newspapers, magazines, cereal, snack food and pasta boxes, office paper, unwanted mail, shredded paper, milk/juice cartons, juice/drink boxes, frozen food boxes, fruit and produce boxes, and all other clean, dry paper, etc.

### YARD TRIMMINGS

- When you can't grasscycle, compost and/or mulch, bag or can yard trimmings. Brush can be

bundled. Always label containers of yard trimmings. No plastic bags for yard trimmings. ❖

## Tethering Your Dog Outside of a Store: Do or Don't?

"I was just inside for a minute, and when I came out he was gone."

"I didn't know that she could get out of her collar."

"I'm heartbroken. How could someone steal my Bosco?"

It's great to include your dog in your daily errands—running to the bank, the pharmacy, or the post office. Bosco gets a brisk walk and you get to spend time with him. But there's real danger in tethering your dog while you pop inside the grocery store for a few things. There are a lot of ways to lose a dog, but this one is the most preventable. Here are just a few of the potential risks involved with tying a dog outside of a store.

- **Theft.** There's a phenomenon that is called the "Gee, I've always wanted a Pug Syndrome." A dog that's tied up in a public place might look abandoned to someone who has always wanted a cute mutt like yours. The thief will rationalize that the owner must be abusive or bad because the dog is tethered up, all alone. Even worse, there are people who are actually licensed to sell dogs to laboratories for experimentation, and some of these people are unscrupulous enough to steal a dog off the street and offer it for sale. Pet theft is just one of the dozens of reasons why it's important to have a dog microchipped and register the chip with a reputable pet recovery service.
- **Against the law.** Many cities have an ordinance against tying dogs up in public places. If a police officer sees your dog tied up, he may wait around to give you a warning or a ticket, or he may call local animal control to come and confiscate your dog.
- **Self-defense.** Being tied up can make a dog feel defensive. A defensive dog is likely to bite someone that comes within his reach, perhaps even a child. If your dog bites someone, not only will you be liable for any damage, you can be sued in civil court.
- **Escape.** Bosco may slip out of his collar or harness if he's really trying. Also, the post where you tie him may come loose, allowing Bosco to make his great escape. Finally, he may chew through his leather or nylon leash. Now he's on the loose—does he know to look both ways before crossing the street? Probably not.

- **Dog attacks.** Your dog is alone outside of the store, on a leash, and basically defenseless. Here comes a stray dog, or perhaps an aggressive dog that an owner walks off-leash. If your dog is attacked, he can't get away, and it's likely that he'll suffer injuries, maybe even life-threatening injuries.
- **Misdeeds.** There are some cruel people in the world that would think nothing of poisoning a dog. Children might think that it's funny to feed your dog bubble gum or something else he shouldn't have. Someone may even let him off of his leash just for fun.
- **Romantic encounters.** Poor tethered Fifi is in heat, and here comes Tuffy, the neighborhood stray. A couple months later, you've got a litter of pups on your hands!
- **Weather.** Too cold or too hot—neither is good for a tethered dog.

Bottom line: Leave Bosco at home! ❖

## Tips to Get Your Lawn Ready for Fall

With autumn nearly upon us and winter rapidly approaching, you're probably not spending much time thinking about your lawn. But autumn, with its cooler temperatures and occasional rainfall, is the ideal time to prepare your lawn for next spring. Many homeowners think lawns need less care in the fall because the grass grows more slowly. In fact, just the opposite is true. During this time of year, grass is busily absorbing energy, moisture, and nutrients in preparation for a long, dormant winter. Give it a little attention now, and you'll be rewarded with a lush, healthy spring lawn. Just follow these tips.

### Keep on Mowing

Continue to water and mow your lawn, as needed, throughout the fall. Then as the season draws to a close, drop the mower's blade to its lowest setting for the last two cuttings of the year. That will allow more sunlight to reach the crown of the grass, and there will be less leaf to turn brown during the winter.

\*Note: As you lower the blade, just remember not to trim off more than one-third of the grass blades at any one time. If necessary, gradually lower the cutting height until the time of the final two cuttings.

### Aerate the Soil

Fall is also an ideal time to aerate your lawn so that oxygen, water, and fertilizer can easily reach the grass's roots. You can rent a gas-powered, walk-behind lawn. The self-propelled machine will quickly punch holes into the soil and extract plugs of dirt. If you've got a very large yard—say, more than 3 or 4 acres—and

don't feel like aerating it yourself, hire a landscaping contractor.

#### Rake the Leaves

Raking leaves is no one's idea of fun, but it's important to remove fallen leaves from your lawn as soon as possible. Don't wait until all the leaves have fallen from the trees to start raking. If you do, the leaves will become wet from rain and morning dew, stick together, and form an impenetrable mat that if left unmoved will suffocate the grass and breed fungal diseases.

An alternative to raking leaves is to use a lawnmower fitted with a collection bag or vacuum system. These methods are particularly effective if you have a very large yard with many deciduous trees. Regardless of whether you use a rake or a lawnmower, just be sure to remove the leaves before they turn into a soggy, suffocating mess.

#### Fertilize for Future Growth

Most lawn experts agree: If you fertilize your lawn only once a year, do it in the fall. The reason? Grass leaves grow much more slowly as the weather turns cool, but the grass roots and rhizomes continue to grow quickly. (Rhizomes are the horizontal plant stems that lie just beneath the soil's surface; they produce the blades of grass above and the roots below.) A fall application of fertilizer delivers essential nutrients for the grass to grow deep roots now and to keep nutrients on reserve for a healthy start next spring. Wait until mid-to-late fall, then apply a dry lawn fertilizer to all grassy areas; be careful not to miss any spots. You could use a crank-style broadcast spreader, but for optimum coverage, consider using a walk-behind drop spreader. It takes a little longer, especially on hilly yards, but a drop spreader provides the best way to apply an even, consistent layer of fertilizer.

#### Fill in Bald Spots

Autumn is also a great time of year to fix any bare, bald spots in your lawn. The quickest, easiest way to do this is with an all-in-one lawn repair mixture. Sold at most garden shops and home centers, this ready-to-use mixture contains grass seed, a special quick-starter lawn fertilizer, and organic mulch. Use a garden rake to scratch loose the soil at the bald spot in your lawn. Then spread a thick layer of the lawn repair mixture over the area. Lightly compact the mixture, then water thoroughly, and continue to water every other day for two weeks.

#### Weed Control

If broadleaf weeds like dandelions have taken over your lawn, now's the time to fight back. Weeds, like most plants, are in the energy-absorbing mode during the fall. They're drinking in everything that comes their

way, including weed killers. Apply an herbicide now and the weeds won't return in the spring. Read the package label before use. Most herbicide manufacturers recommend applying the weed killer during early-to-mid autumn, when daytime temperatures are consistently above 60 degrees Fahrenheit. ❖

## **We Want a "Waste-Free" Community!**

It doesn't take much to remember that we have pets in our community. In fact, if you don't watch your step, your liable to step in one such reminder!

Besides being unsightly and smelly, animal waste can be hazardous to the health of our children who play in the community and other pets. One of the most common forms of disease transmission between dogs is through fecal matter.

When walking your dog in our community, remember that it should be leashed. Also, it is important to remember to immediately clean up after your pet. Take along a baggie with you to pick up waste with and then dispose of it properly.

By taking a few simple steps to clean up after your pet, you can contribute not only to the beautification of our community, but also towards the elimination of one of the most irritating nuisances in our community.



## **Easy Ways To Use Less Gas**

With the price of gas going higher and higher, using less gas only makes good sense. The following techniques can help you reduce the number of trips to the gas pump:

- Lighten up. Don't carry heavy, unnecessary items in your car, and remove accessory racks when you're not using them.
- Drive the speed limit. Many communities have stoplights timed to turn green for cars moving at the speed limit. Speeding puts you out of sync with the timed lights. You use more gas idling at and accelerating from the lights.
- Minimize passing. When you speed up to pass another car, you use more gasoline - only to slow down to fit back into traffic.
- Check your tires. If tires aren't rotated per manufacturers recommendations or properly aligned and inflated, fuel efficiency can be reduced.
- Shift gears appropriately. Generally the higher the gear, the less fuel you use. ❖