

# NEWSLETTER

## HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on the following dates: Tuesday, January 10 (Sager residence); Wednesday, February 15 Tentative (Annual meeting, Buffington/ReMax Building); Thursday, April 19 (Sands residence); Tuesday, June 12 (Stine residence); Wednesday, September 12 (Wesolowski residence); and Thursday, November 15 (Schmidt residence). All homeowners are welcome to attend. Come hear what is happening in the community. ❖

## HOA Web Site

The Brookeville Farms HOA web site is located at <http://www.bfmdhoa.org/>. This 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. ❖

## 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@prstech.com](mailto:bfneighbors@prstech.com)".

This list has been used to find recommendations for service providers, find carpool buddies, and to participate in joint purchasing agreements (like, propane and whole-house generators). The Homeowners Association newsletter is also distributed to this list. ❖

## The Defect in Smoke Alarms

Do you know the type of smoke alarm in your home? Is it a photoelectric or an ionization smoke alarm? If you are like an overwhelming majority of Americans you have an ionization smoke alarm. If you have a fire, then it matters a great deal whether you have an ionization or photoelectric alarm. If you have a slow smoldering fire, then there is a good chance your ionization fire alarm may not sound, or may sound too late for you and your family to get out of the house alive. After you read this article, go look at your smoke alarm and see if it is an ionization or photoelectric (you may look up the model number at the vendor's web site). If it is an ionization, install a photoelectric also, or a combination photoelectric/ionization smoke alarm. It may save your life and the lives of your family.

There are two primary types of smoke alarm sensing technologies: photoelectric and ionization. A photoelectric smoke alarm is best for detecting slow smoldering fires. Slow smoldering fires typically involve lots of smoke and little or no flames at the initial stage. For example, a couch may smolder and billow plumes of toxic smoke for a long period of time before developing into a flaming fire. Slow smoldering fires typically occur when people are asleep and are generally responsible for more deaths than fast flaming fires.

Photoelectric smoke alarms cost approximately \$15.00, but represent less than 5% of all smoke alarms sold in America. Many experts recommend a photoelectric smoke alarm or a photoelectric/ionization combination.

The ionization smoke alarm is best for detecting fast flaming fires where there is less smoke. In fact, ionization detectors should be called "fire alarms" not smoke detectors because they are designed to detect flames and often do not detect smoke only. Ionization smoke alarms cost approximately \$10.00 and represent approximately 95% of alarms sold in America. The ionization smoke alarm may not respond at all to a slow smoldering fire even when a room is completely filled with smoke. If an ionization smoke alarm sounds in a slow smoldering fire, it may take up to 15-30 minutes longer for it to sound when compared to a photoelectric. ❖

## Subscribe to Montgomery County Alerts

You may sign up for email alerts from many Montgomery County departments. Below, is a list of some alert suggestions. While not comprehensive, it will get you well on your way to keeping in the know.

### Alert Montgomery

<http://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov>

includes the following options and more:

- Montgomery County Severe Traffic (24 hrs)
- Montgomery County Severe Weather
- Alert MCPS (Montgomery County Public Schools)
- MCPS Alerta español (MC Public Schools)
- Montgomery College Alert
- Montgomery County Government Closures
- Athletic Field Notification
- Athletic Field Notification Spanish
- Nature Center Closures
- Public Health Alerts

- MCPD Police Alerts

Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services  
Recycling/Trash collection status announcements for  
holidays and weather:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/solidwaste>

Montgomery County Government eSubscription

select from a wide variety of e-newsletters sent by  
County departments and programs

[https://ext01.montgomerycountymd.gov/entp/s1p/  
esubpublic/newssubscriber.do](https://ext01.montgomerycountymd.gov/entp/s1p/esubpublic/newssubscriber.do)

Montgomery County Public Schools Quicknotes

(available in 6 languages)

<http://www.mcpsquicknotes.org> ❖

## See Something? Say Something! Report suspicious activity!

Emergencies - Dial 9-1-1

Non-Emergency Number - (301) 279-8000

Nine-one-one (9-1-1) is a three-digit telephone  
number that you can call 24 hours a day for police, fire  
or emergency medical services. When 9-1-1 is used  
properly it can make a difference in saving lives and  
preserving public safety. The Montgomery County 9-  
1-1 Emergency Communication Center handles  
800,000 plus calls a year.

### WHEN TO CALL 9-1-1

For emergencies only. Some examples are:

- Any life threatening situation (fights, weapons,  
personal injury auto collision)
- Sexual assault that is in progress or just occurred
- Immediate fear for your personal safety or safety of  
others
- Serious crime in progress (robbery, burglary, assault)
- Any serious medical problem
- Any type of fire

### WHEN TO CALL THE POLICE NON- EMERGENCY NUMBER (301) 279-8000

- Noise complaints
- Parking violations
- Keys locked in vehicles (unless someone is inside  
and in danger)
- Property damage auto collision
- Loose or barking dogs

### WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU CALL 9-1-1

- Location – need the exact address, intersection, place  
name (for example, shopping center, park, hotel), etc.
- Nature of the emergency (what is going on now,  
description of subjects and or vehicles involved, any

weapons involved, how long ago did the incident  
occur

- Calling parties name and telephone number
- Do you want to have the officers see you
- If your call requires a transfer to another agency, the  
caller will hear a series of clicks as the transfer is  
taking place
- If the 9-1-1 center is extremely busy and your call is  
not answered within approximately 15 seconds, you  
will hear a recording indicating our operators are busy  
and to not hang up. Stay on the line, do not hang up  
and call back.

### WHAT SHOULD YOU (THE CALLER) DO?

- Remain calm and speak clearly
- Be prepared to answer where, what, when, who and  
how
- Let the call taker ask the questions
- Stay on the phone if it is safe to do so, or until the  
call taker advises you to hang up

### INADVERTENTLY DIALED 9-1-1 - DO NOT HANG UP

- Stay on the phone and advise the call taker that you  
inadvertently dialed 9-1-1 and that you do not have an  
emergency
- If you hang up, emergency personnel will need to  
respond to the call
- Do not test your phone or 9-1-1
- Open faced cell phone key pads should be in the  
locked mode. Unlocked phones are the number one  
cause for unintentional 9-1-1 calls.
- Responding to hang up calls or test calls, needlessly  
burdens the call takers and the system, leaving the call  
taker unavailable for true emergencies
- Keep phones out of reach of small children and  
toddlers ❖

## Winter's Coming...Be Prepared

We hope that every household in this area will be  
prepared for winter, but just in case you are still  
thinking about summer here are a few reminders:

- Turn off the water to exterior faucets and drain the  
pipes.
- Check your gutters and downspouts to insure they  
are securely attached to your home and in good  
working order. If they have not been cleaned recently,  
have them cleaned.
- Purchase a couple bags of sand or kitty litter—keep  
one in your car and one in your home to use for  
traction during icy conditions.
- Make sure you have a snow shovel that is in working  
order. If not, buy one.

- Put a large mat and box (or other container) to hold your shoes at your front door— keep road and sidewalk abrasives contained at the door.
- Lastly, if you must venture out into winter weather, allow plenty of extra time for walking and driving. If it is possible, stay at home and allow the County time to clear the roads. ❖

## “Don’t Cut to the Quick!”

By Dr. Steve Velling, Ashburn Village Animal Hospital

When you hear the telltale “click-click-click” as your dog walks across the tile floor, you know it’s that time again— time to trim the toenails. Trimming your dog’s nails is not just a part of grooming; it’s important for your pet’s health as well. You should remember that untrimmed nails can cause a variety of problems including broken nails, which are painful and can bleed profusely.

While some dogs don’t seem to mind when you’re trimming their nails, others just don’t like it. If your pet is not used to having his nails trimmed, start slowly and work up to it. Following these suggestions for a proper nail trim might help you give your dog a more pleasant pedicure.

- Start young. The earlier you start clipping your dog’s claws, the better used to it he will be. Frequent trims when your dog is young will help diminish any fear. Have your veterinarian show you how to do it the first time.
- Learn the anatomy. Within the center of each toenail is the blood and nerve supply for the nail called the quick. In clear white nails, you can see the quick, a pinkish area in the middle of the nail. The common black nails do not allow an easy view. Cutting into the quick will result in pain and bleeding. Cut dark colored nails in several small cuts to reduce the chance of cutting into the quick. Before you start clipping, determine how much needs to be trimmed.

The basic rule of thumb is that the nail, which curls downward, should be even with the paw pad.

- Use the proper instruments and technique. Use only nail trimmers that are designed for dogs. There are a variety of nail trimmers available at pet stores or your veterinarian’s office. You may want to sit on the floor with your pet, hold your pet in your lap, or have someone hold your pet on a table. If your dog has light colored nails, eyeball the quick and aim a few millimeters away from it.

Cut the nail below the quick on a 45-degree angle, with the cutting end of the nail clipper toward the end of the nail. In dogs with dark nails, make several small nips with the clippers instead of one larger one. Trim very thin slices off the end of the nail until you see a black dot appear towards the center when you look at it head on. This is the start of the quick that you want to avoid. The more diligent you are about trimming, the more the quick will regress into the nail, allowing you to cut shorter each time. Trim nails so that when the animal steps down, nails do not touch the floor.

- Sometimes accidents happen and you will cut into the quick. Have silver nitrate products on hand—you can get them at your veterinarian’s office or pet store. You can also use flour or cornstarch to stop the bleeding. If that doesn’t work, apply a light bandage for about 15 minutes. If the bleeding continues, call your veterinarian. ❖

## Wisdom for Managing Success

- Figure out what you’re so passionate about that you’d be happy doing it for ten years, even if you never made any money from it. That’s what you should be doing.
- Always be true to yourself.
- Figure out what your values are and live by them, in business and in life.
- Rather than focus on work-life separation, focus on work-life integration.
- Don’t network. Focus on building real relationships and friendships where the relationship itself is its own reward, instead of trying to get something out of the relationship to benefit your business or yourself.
- Remember to maximize for happiness, not money or status.
- Get ready for rejection.
- Success unshared is failure. Give back — share your wealth. ❖

## Quote of the Month

For every minute you remain angry, you give up sixty seconds of peace of mind. -- Ralph Waldo Emerson.

