

NEWSLETTER

HOA Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Brookeville Farms Homeowners will be held on Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 PM at the Longwood Community Center. There will be three openings on the Board of Directors to be filled. It is important for the future of the community that these positions be filled. If you would like to help, please plan to attend. ❖

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: Tuesday, April 21, Wednesday, June 17, Wednesday, September 23, and Wednesday, November 18. All homeowners are welcome to attend. ❖

HOA Web Site

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

Newsletter Articles

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

Alternative Energy

There is increased interest in alternative energy sources to reduce cost, reduce dependence on foreign sources, and reduce climate impact. Such alternatives include wind, solar, biofuels, and others. It is not clear if this will have an impact on our community in the near-term. However, at some point, it will. The Brookeville Farms Covenants contain no reference to alternative energy sources.

Several states, including California and Colorado, have passed laws prohibiting homeowners associations from unreasonably restricting homeowners from installing alternative energy generation devices, such as solar panels, wind

generators, and other select, energy-saving improvements (awnings, shutters, garage and attic fans, evaporative coolers, etc.). That said, homeowners associations are usually permitted to adopt reasonable restrictions related to the size, placement, noise output, and appearance of the permitted alternative energy devices. They may also address bona fide safety concerns related to these improvements. Homeowners associations also may apply their established architectural review procedures before an owner may install a proposed device.

It would be forward-thinking to establish guidelines on alternative energy sources that explain what is acceptable. To that end, a subcommittee of the Architectural and Environmental Review Committee will be formed to investigate the pertinent issues and recommend guidelines. If you would like to participate, please contact David Sager (davids4001@gmail.com). ❖

Thanksgiving in February

Help the hungry by dining out on Tuesday, February 17. Dine out at one of the participating restaurants in Montgomery County and a percentage of the receipts generated on February 17 will go to several non-profit organizations in the area to include Olney HELP. Olney Chamber restaurants participating on February 17 are: Al Sospiro Trattoria and Wine Bar, B.J. Pumpernickel's, Dave's American Bistro, Mamma Lucia, Olney Grill, Ricciuti's, and The Olney Tavern. For more information on participating restaurants visit www.thanksgivinginfebruary.org. ❖

Pinching Pennies on Your Pets

by Dr. Steve Velling, Ashburn Village Animal Hospital, www.ashburnanimals.com.

With the economy the way it is, we're all watching where our dollars go. That goes for pet care, too. By focusing on prevention, you will keep your pet healthy and avoid expensive procedures without sacrificing Fluffy or Fido's health.

Here are some tips:

- **Keep pets fit and trim**—Many pets that we see are overweight, and that extra weight increases the chance of some serious health threats such as arthritis, diabetes, or cancer. To help maintain a normal weight on your pal (you know when you can feel the ribs on your dog, or see a waist line on your cat), make sure to measure your pet's food (with an actual measuring cup—not a “coffee can”!), minimize the treats, and work in a daily exercise regimen.
- **Do It Yourself**—You can learn to do basic grooming at home, from bathing to nail trims. Don't know how? Ask your groomer or vet how they do it and you can save some money! Also, learn to brush your pet's teeth, or find the right chew toys to use to lengthen the time between potentially pricey cleanings.
- **Buy Smart**—You can still buy toys for Shadow or Sadie, but you don't need to get designer clothes, collars or pillows. Also, when getting food or litter, buy in bulk to take advantage of the savings, and store the product in airtight containers.
- **Work with your Vet**—Ask your vet if Bowzer or Brenda need all the shots that they are recommending (but don't stop going in at least once a year). Wellness exams can spot problems when they are smaller and usually easier to treat. And ask your veterinarian to write prescriptions for expensive medications that can be filled at wholesale places like Costco, Sam's Club, or BJ's, or to prescribe the generic form, when possible. Finally, take advantage of monthly specials that some veterinarians offer.
- **Be Prepared**—Pet insurance is growing in popularity because many people don't want the cost of treating their four-legged friend to dictate whether they seek veterinary care or not. There are many different plans and options (I like Pets Best Insurance, personally), so check them out before deciding. ❖

What the Stars Reveal About Your Income

The survey, conducted by Harris Interactive, found that firstborn children are more likely than their siblings to earn \$100,000 or more per year. Last-born children are least likely to earn six figures. Other career tidbits regarding birth order:

First-born children: more likely to be drawn to the professions of government, engineering, pharmacy, and science; more likely to hold senior management positions or be vice presidents

Middle children: more likely to work in nursing, law enforcement, firefighting, and machine operation; more likely to identify with professional/technical staff level positions

Last-born children: more likely to become artists/designers, salespeople, and information technologists; more likely to hold administrative or clerical positions

When it comes to how the stars affect the wallet, the study found that the astrological signs of Scorpio, Leo, Taurus, and Cancer were more likely to be paid \$100,000 or more annually; Aquarius and Capricorn signs were among those most likely to earn \$35,000 or less.

Below are the fields we're drawn to based on astrological signs:

- **Aquarius:** sales, military, engineering, mechanic, food preparation, facilities management, transportation
- **Pisces:** social work, personal care, IT, facilities management, mechanic
- **Aries:** government, construction, hotel/recreation, IT, education, transportation
- **Taurus:** nursing, engineering, attorney/judge, marketing/public relations, higher education
- **Gemini:** art/design/architecture, nursing and personal care, sales, law enforcement, firefighting, machine operation
- **Cancer:** government, legal services, advertising, higher education, machine operation, transportation, military
- **Leo:** government, legal services, art/design/architecture, engineering, entertainment, real estate, education
- **Virgo:** social work, sales, hotel/recreation, editing/writing, food preparation
- **Libra:** social work, government, advertising, machine operation, law enforcement, firefighting, sales, education
- **Scorpio:** legal services, engineering, science, education, construction, skilled trades
- **Sagittarius:** editing/writing, marketing/public relations, entertainment, hotel/recreation, IT, military
- **Capricorn:** art/design/architecture, nursing, science, IT, sales, farming, food preparation ❖