

NEWSLETTER

HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on the following dates: Thursday, September 9; and Thursday, November 4. Until the coronavirus crisis is over, these meetings will be held via teleconference. Contact the HOA president for access information. All homeowners are welcome to attend. ❖

Changes to the Board

There have been several changes to the HOA Board of Directors. Chrysa Thear passed away, may she rest in peace. Shane Hickey resigned. Bret and Debbie Stine decided to downsize and sold their home. We thank them for their many contributions to the community.

Our neighbors Allen Bell (Bordly Court), John Hallen (Bordly Drive), and Valerie Carlson (Riggs Hill Way) have volunteered to join the Board. We thank them. ❖

Help Wanted

The Brookeville Farms HOA has a few key positions that really need to be filled in order to keep our neighborhood running smoothly. The Architectural and Environmental Review Committee (AERC) needs members and needs a new Chairperson. Most of the process is done via email with the exception of some site visits for things that may impact property lines. If interested, contact David Sager at davids4001@gmail.com. ❖

Bicycle Safety in Maryland

Riding a bicycle is great exercise, good for the environment, and just plain fun. Unfortunately, it can also be dangerous. Therefore, both bicyclists and motorists need to work together to be safe on the road. Bicycles are considered vehicles in Maryland, so bicyclists must devote as much attention to riding a bike as they would when operating a motor vehicle. Equally as important, motorists must allow cyclists the same respect and caution they would allow another vehicle.

Motorists can safely share the road with bicyclists by maintaining a (3) three-foot gap when passing a bicyclist,

stopping for cyclists in crosswalks, and being alert when making turns. Wearing a helmet properly, being visible and being alert and aware of surroundings, are a few ways that bicyclists can be safer while riding. When we “share the road,” we all get to enjoy Maryland’s roadways safely.

MARYLAND’S BICYCLE SAFETY LAWS

By Maryland law, bicycles are vehicles. Bicyclists are authorized users of the roadway, and bicyclists have rights-of-way and the same duty to obey all traffic signals as motorists. But bicycles are less visible, quieter, and don’t have a protective barrier around them. Motorists should drive carefully near bicyclists; even a slight mistake can result in serious injury or even death.

Traffic Laws for Motorists

- The driver of a vehicle passing another vehicle, including a bicycle, must pass at a safe distance and leave plenty of space. The driver should be able to see the passed vehicle in the rear-view mirror before returning to the original lane. After passing a driver must make sure they are clear of the bicyclist before making any turns.
- Drivers shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any bicycle, Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device (EPAMD), or motor scooter being ridden by a person.
- The driver of a vehicle must not pass any closer than three (3) feet to a bicycle or motor scooter if the bicycle is operated in a lawful manner. It is not lawful to ride against traffic.
- The bicycle has the right-of-way when the motor vehicle is making a turn, and motorists must yield to bicyclists.
- Motorists must yield the right-of-way to bicyclists riding in bike lanes and shoulders when these vehicle operators are entering or crossing occupied bike lanes and shoulders.
- When riding on a sidewalk—where such riding is permitted—or a bike path, a bicyclist may ride in a crosswalk to continue their route. Motorists are required to yield right-of-way to a bicyclist operating lawfully in a crosswalk. Drivers must look for bicycles coming from both directions.
- A person may not throw any object at or in the direction of any person riding a bicycle, an EPAMD, or a motor scooter.
- A person may not open the door of any motor vehicle with intent to strike, injure, or interfere with any person riding a bicycle, an EPAMD, or a motor scooter.

• Failing to yield right-of-way to a bicyclist, resulting in a crash in which the bicyclist is seriously injured, can result in a \$1,000 fine and three points on a driving record.

Traffic Laws for Bicyclists

- Maryland's traffic laws apply to bicycles and motor scooters.
- A bicycle may not carry a passenger unless it is specifically designed for and equipped with a seat for each passenger.
- Bicycles, motor scooters, and EPAMDs are not permitted on any roads where the speed limit is more than 50 miles per hour (MPH) or higher.
- A person riding a bicycle shall ride as close to the right side of the road as practicable and safe, except when:
 - o Making or attempting to make a left turn;
 - o Operating on a one-way street;
 - o Passing a stopped or slower moving vehicle;
 - o Avoiding pedestrians or road hazards;
 - o The right lane is a right turn only lane; or
 - o Operating in a lane that is too narrow for a bicycle to travel safely side-by-side within the lane.
- Where there is a bike lane, a person must use those and not ride a bicycle or motor scooter in the roadway except:
 - o If passing safely cannot be done within the bike lane or shoulder;
 - o When preparing for a left turn;
 - o To avoid hazards; or
 - o When the bike lane is also a right-turn or merge lane.
- Persons riding a bicycle or motor scooter may not cling to a vehicle on the roadway.
- A motor scooter may not be operated at a speed in excess of 30 MPH.
- An EPAMD may not be operated at a speed in excess of 15 MPH.
- A person cannot carry anything that prevents them from keeping both hands on the handlebars or that interferes with the view or balance of their bicycle, motor scooter, or EPAMD.
- A bicycle, motor scooter, or EPAMD may not be secured to a fire hydrant; a pole, meter, or device in a bus or taxi-loading zone; a pole, meter, or device within 25 feet of an intersection; or where it would obstruct or impede traffic.
- A person may not ride a bicycle, motor scooter, or EPAMD while wearing a headset or earplugs that cover both ears.

Helmets

- Helmets are required for everyone under the age of 16, including passengers, who ride their bicycles on the road, bicycle paths, or any public property.
- Helmets are also required for everyone under the age of 16 who is riding on a scooter or on in-line skates.
- The helmets must meet or exceed the standards of the American National Standards Institute, the Snell Memorial Foundation, or the American Society for Testing and Materials.

Required Equipment

- A lamp is required on the front of a bicycle or motor scooter if the bicycle or motor scooter is used on a highway when people and vehicles are not clearly visible at 1,000 feet.
- A red reflector on the rear is required if the bicycle or motor scooter is used on a highway when people and vehicles are not clearly visible at 1,000 feet.
- A bicycle or motor scooter may be equipped with a bell or other audible device, but not a siren or whistle.
- A bicycle or motor scooter must be equipped with a brake.

BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS

For Bicyclists

- Obey the rules of the road: Ride straight and single file in a predictable manner. Plan ahead and allow time to maneuver around road hazards and to negotiate with traffic and open car doors. Yield to pedestrians and obey all traffic signals and signs.
- Ride with traffic: Always ride on the right side of the road. Use caution when passing other traffic on the right. When approaching an intersection, use the appropriate lane for the direction you intend to travel (left, straight ahead, or right).
- Signal all turns: Be predictable and look quickly behind you before changing lanes or turning. Signal safely in advance.
- Make left-hand turns safely: You may turn left as a vehicle by moving into the left side of the travel lane (or left turn lane) OR cross like a pedestrian by stopping, dismounting, and walking across crosswalks.
- Be prepared for conditions: When braking in the rain or snow, allow extra distance to stop and look for pavement markings, utility covers, and debris which may be slippery.
- Be visible – use lights at night or all the time: When riding at night, Maryland State Law requires a white headlight on the front and a red reflector on the back visible from at least 600 feet. In addition, we recommend you wear bright clothing in the daytime and reflective clothing for night riding.
- Maintain your bicycle: Check your tires, chain, and brakes before every trip. Take your bicycle to a bike shop at least once

a year for a professional inspection and tune-up. Make sure your reflectors and lights are in working condition.

- Wear a helmet and wear it properly: Helmets are required by law for anyone under 16, but everyone should wear a helmet to prevent a head injury. Your helmet should be level and snug and should not shift while riding.

For Motorists

- Expect bicyclists on the road: Always expect to encounter a bicyclist on the road—on all types of roads, in all types of weather and at all times of the day and night. Bicyclists may be riding out in the travel lane for their own safety due to narrow roads, obstacles, or pavement hazards which you may not see. Before opening your car door, check for approaching bicyclists.
- Pass with care; give bicyclists at least (3) three feet: Pass a bicyclist as you would any slow-moving vehicle. Slow down, wait until oncoming traffic is clear, and allow at least (3) three feet of clearance between your car and the bicyclist when passing. After passing a bicyclist, check over your shoulder to make sure you have allowed enough room before moving over. Experienced bicyclists often ride 20 to 25 MPH and may be closer than you think.
- Be careful at intersections: Always assume bicyclists are traveling through an intersection unless they signal otherwise, and yield to them as you would any other vehicle. Do not turn left or right in front of bicyclists unless you can do so safely. You can be fined \$1000 and receive three points if you injure a bicyclist by violating their right-of-way.
- Watch for children: Children on bicycles are unpredictable – expect the unexpected. Pay extra attention for children and strictly observe speed limits in school zones and in residential areas.

Source: MDOT MVA ❖

Vegetables You Can Plant Now for Fall Harvest

Beans of all types grow quickly and can produce abundant harvests up until frost. This makes them ideal for succession planting, meaning planting at intervals throughout the growing season. You can even start beans in the heat of summer. Sow outdoors directly in the soil. If you're growing pole beans, add a trellis; if you're growing bush varieties, no trellis is needed.

Beets are an ideal fall crop. Sow seeds directly outdoors; you can pre-soak seeds to help with germination. In warmer climates especially, sow seeds in late summer under taller crops like tomatoes or peppers to provide a little shade. After the temperatures cool and you remove the tall crops, beets will thrive.

Radishes are one of the quickest maturing crops at four weeks from seed to harvest. Like beets, you can sow under taller summer crops to provide a little shade. You can stagger

plantings to get a couple harvests of radishes from late summer through fall.

Broccoli can be sown directly into the garden in late summer for a fall harvest, or plant from transplants for a little ease. Broccoli is sensitive to frost and freeze, so cover to protect the growing buds in the event of an early cold spell.

Brussels sprouts love cool weather and are often grown in cool climates as a spring crop that holds in the garden through summer. In warmer climates, though, Brussels sprouts can be started in fall and grown through winter into early spring. They can take a little frost. Start from seed indoors and transplant outside when weather cools, or buy transplants at your local garden center.

Turnips taste great when roasted. They are easy to grow in the fall and into winter. Direct sow in late summer to early fall. Roots are ready to harvest when they start popping up from the soil line. Smaller turnips roots are more tender. Collard greens are popular in Southern gardens, but they're easy to grow almost anywhere, as long as they're planted in the cool weather of spring or fall. They taste sweeter when they're lightly touched by frost.

Green onions can be direct sown in late summer and harvested through fall and early winter.

Kohlrabi is a fast grower for the cool season, taking only six weeks to mature.

Lettuce loves cool weather. Plant in late summer to early fall to enjoy in an autumn salad. You can also tuck lettuces into fall container gardens alongside pansies and other fall blooms. You can plant from transplants but lettuce also grows easily from seed.

Cauliflower can be grown in spring and fall but is temperamental about heat and cold — it likes mild temps in between. For a fall harvest, plant transplants outdoors after temperatures are consistently in the 70s and below. Cover in the event of an early freeze.

Peas grow well in cool weather. Choose a short season variety for an autumn harvest and sow outdoors once temperatures have started to drop into the 70s and below.

Kale thrives in cool weather and keeps in the garden even through winter. Direct sow in early fall and enjoy harvests through the holidays and beyond.

Direct sow parsnips in the summer and harvest after frost when the flavor improves. Parsnips keep well in the garden through winter. Radicchio—Those who love radicchio really love radicchio. Try growing it in your fall and winter garden to see why. Head-forming radicchio varieties are typically ready to harvest three months after planting.

Source: hgvtv.com ❖