



# Home Owners Association Newsletter

June 2007

## HOA Officers Elected

The HOA Board of Directors have elected the following officers for the 2007 calendar year:

President: David Sager

Secretary: Not filled

Treasurer: Russ Craig ❖

## HOA Board Members

In addition to the HOA officers listed above, the following neighbors are At-Large members of the Board of Directors:

Lisa Barksdale

Ed Herron

John O'Loughlin

Randy Sands

Peter Schmidt

Debbie Stine

Mark Wesolowski ❖

## 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: Thursday, August 9 and Wednesday, November 7. All homeowners are welcome to attend. An open forum for homeowners is scheduled for the last 10 minutes of each meeting. ❖

## Volunteers Needed

The HOA is a volunteer organization. Without your support, there will be no HOA. Volunteers are needed for the Architectural Review Committee, the Communications Committee, and the Landscape and Grounds Committee. If you would like to help, please contact the respective committee chairperson:

Debbie Stine - [debstine@verizon.net](mailto:debstine@verizon.net)

David Sager - [david.sager@jhuapl.edu](mailto:david.sager@jhuapl.edu)

Mark Wesolowski - [markweso@hotmail.com](mailto:markweso@hotmail.com) ❖

## HOA Web Site

There is an HOA web site located at <http://www.geocities.com/bfmdhoa/>. This web 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 information to appear in the next HOA newsletter, or for any inquiries, please send them to David Sager ([david.sager@jhuapl.edu](mailto:david.sager@jhuapl.edu)). ❖

## Hallen/O'Bryan Party

The Sixth annual Hallen/O'Bryan Brookeville Farms and Neighbors party will be held on Saturday, August 25 starting at 5:00 PM, at 2120 Bordly Drive. Burgers, hot dogs, munchies, beer, and soda will be served. Please bring a side dish, dessert, beverage, or something to put on the grill. Bring your bathing suit. Please RSVP to the O'Bryan's at 301-774-8396. ❖

## Street Light Not Working?

Do you know of a street light in the community that is not working properly? Is it out, broken, or on all day? If so, you may contact Lisa Barksdale (301-570-9441 or [lisa.barksdale@verizon.net](mailto:lisa.barksdale@verizon.net)) who will report it to the proper authorities. Please provide the number that is affixed to the pole and a detailed description of the location of the light pole. ❖

## Glass in Street?

Are you noticing piles of broken glass in the street across from driveways on Recycling pickup day? If so,

you should NOT clean it up right away, but call the Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services at 240-777-6400 to report it. They have been very responsive. ❖

## Miss Utility

Miss Utility is a homeowner's ultimate partner – a partner that must be included in all outdoor home projects that involve digging. Homeowners should contact Miss Utility before digging to ensure that all underground utility lines in the work area have been marked. This simple step can save money, prevent personal and property damage and protect homeowners from legal ramifications.

Here's how it works. At least 48 hours before digging, homeowners are encouraged to call Miss Utility by dialing 811, a free and easy-to-remember FCC-designated national number created to eliminate the confusion of multiple "Call Before You Dig" numbers across the country. Miss Utility will arrange for member utility operators to have the underground lines at the project site investigated, free of charge, so that homeowners can carefully excavate around them and protect the lines during construction. It's that simple. ❖

## Lawn Mowing Strategies

Always mow your lawn when the grass is dry. Wait for your grass to dry before attempting to cut it. Wet grass cuts poorly: damp clippings will cling to the blade causing ragged cuts; the mower deck (the blade housing) will become clogged, interfering with overall mowing; grass will form unsightly clumps; clippings won't be able to filter to the soil surface; and disease organisms are easily spread through a moist environment.

Keep your mower's cutting blades sharp. Sharpen mowing blades at least once or twice a year. Sharp blades provide a clean, safe, and efficient cut. Dull mower blades will tear and shred the tips of the grass which can provide an entry point for disease organisms and weaken the grass plant. If your lawn looks gray or dull after mowing -- and turns a straw-brown a day or two later, your mower blade is dull and causing damage. Sharpen it at once.

Cut at the correct height for your type of grass. Different types of grass require different mowing

heights. The following guidelines provide information for some of the most popular turfgrass varieties:

Recommended Mowing Heights\*

Turfgrass Variety	Set Mower to this Height	Mow at or before this Height
Kentucky Bluegrass	2.5-3"	4"
Fine Fescue	2.5-3.5"	4"
Tall Fescue	2.5-3.5"	4"
Perennial Ryegrass	2.5-3"	4"

\*Cool weather grasses can be cut approximately a 1/2" shorter in fall and winter; warm weather grasses a 1/2" taller.

The above heights are generally taller than those traditionally used. Taller grass blades provide more "energy" for the plant's deepening root system, leading to a healthier, more drought-tolerant lawn. Taller grass helps shade the soil, which can keep soil cooler during hot weather. It also provides natural weed suppression by blocking out the sunlight many weed seeds need to germinate and by overshadowing many broadleaf weeds, like dandelions, which will contribute to their eventual decline and chemical-free eradication.

Generally, lawns will require cutting every five or six days during active growing season, slowing down to about once every ten days when growth slows down. Measure your lawn's height and let that determine when you should mow. ❖