

NEWSLETTER

New HOA Board Members

Three homeowners were selected to fill vacant At-Large seats on the Board of Directors. They are:

David Sager
Bret Stine
Mark Wesolowski ❖

Accomplishments for 2010

At the February Annual Meeting, a summary of the major accomplishments for the past year were presented. They are outlined below:

Architectural

- Projects approved: 1 pool, 2 solar panels, 1 driveway extension.

Landscaping

- Landscape service contract with Estes was renewed. They continue to perform well.

Communications

- Six HOA newsletters were published and distributed.
- HOA newsletter was distributed by email only
- HOA web site www.bfmdhoa.org kept up to date.

Other

- Trash removal.
- Speed calming:
 - Double yellow centerlines installed on Bordly Drive
 - Stop lines installed at the intersection of Bordly Drive and Brighton Dam Road
 - Winding road signs installed, one in each direction of Bordly Drive approaching the curves
 - Portable self-operating radar and speed display unit setup on Bordly Drive to promote speed awareness ❖

HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on the following dates: Thursday, April 14 (Sands residence); Tuesday, June 14 (Stine residence); Wednesday, September 14 (O'Loughlin residence); and Thursday, November 17 (Schmidt residence). All homeowners are welcome to attend. ❖

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. ❖

Stink Bugs



As the weather warms, scientists warn that billions of stink bugs - far worse than last year - will be awakening and reproducing. Named for the unpleasant odor that is released when they are squashed, brown marmorated stink bugs first arrived in Allentown, Pa., in the mid-1990s and have since spread from Pennsylvania to New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio and other states. During this time, this insect has not only continued to expand its range, but it also has reproduced to create increasingly larger populations each year.

Adult stink bugs can live for several years, going dormant during periods of colder weather after they have sought out warm places to hide. The females, when they emerge in the spring, lay clusters of eggs, from 30 to 100, on the undersides of leaves on low growing vegetation. When feeding they inject the fruit or plant with saliva before sucking out the plant juices through their needle like mouthparts. They can cause plants to be stunted, fruits to be misshapen and discolored, and spread some plant diseases. They

can damage plants such as roses, vegetables, ornamental plants and trees.

There are some non-toxic methods to control stink bugs that come into your garden. One way to protect your crop is the use of row covers for crops such as peas and beans. Besides handpicking the bugs you can also use a small cordless hand vacuum to

suck them up before dumping them in some soapy water. Stink bugs are attracted to the color yellow and at some of the garden supply sites you will find yellow sticky traps for trapping stink bugs and pheromone impregnated traps that will lure them in. Starting the battle early before you actually see adults is important because the young nymphs can cause feeding damages as well. Don't plant sunflowers near your garden as stink bugs are highly attracted to them. They can be used as a trapping crop to lure the bugs away from your garden where they can be sprayed with stronger chemicals without worry.

There are toxic insecticide sprays and dusts you can use to fight stink bugs, unfortunately the hard covered adults can be hard to kill. Because they feed on internal plant juices, topical stomach poisons sprayed on the plant surface won't kill them. Contact insecticides including Carbaryl, Permethrins, and Sabadilla, are effective, especially against the young nymphs. Malathion, Pyrethrin, and Endosulfan based pesticides have all been shown to kill stink bugs. Neem oil has been found to have little effect on stink bugs. Diatomaceous earth will kill stink bugs and there are products that contain it along with Permethrins for a double knockdown. Read and follow all label warnings and directions when using insecticides and reapply them as called for to control stink bugs. Nicotine will also kill stink bugs when sprayed on them. To make your own spray crush up about 10 cigarettes in a half gallon of water and let it sit over night. Strain the solution through some cheesecloth saving the liquid and adding a teaspoon of dish soap to it. This can be sprayed on plants and it will kill stink bugs quickly, just be sure to thoroughly wash any edibles you get it on and to not get it on yourself. Insecticidal soaps will also work on stink bugs but be careful if you try to use regular liquid soaps. Some dish washing or hand soaps can be too strong and can burn plants.

The most concern homeowners have about this insect comes when it invades their home. Typically, the insects fly onto the exterior of homes and then begin to seek cracks and crevices to enter. Common entry points for these pests include small cracks and crevices around air conditioning units, chimneys, attic vents,

door and window frames, and gaps or holes in the foundation. Replacing screens, installing weather stripping and door sweeps, and using caulk to seal any cracks around the building can help keep these pests out.

While exclusion is the best preventive step that homeowners can take, careful application of insecticides containing Pyrethroid chemistry can help control large populations outside windows and doors before the insects enter the home.

Currently there are no insecticides registered for stink bug control indoors and consumers should not apply products formulated for outdoor control to indoor spaces. Indoor invaders can be vacuumed up in a shop vacuum and immediately disposed of, to prevent the development of the strong odor for which these insects are known. ❖

Cooking Fires

How often has the doorbell rung or a child interrupted you while you were cooking, causing you to forget about the chicken you left sizzling on the stove - until smoke filled the house?

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires, according to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Latest statistics from NFPA say that one out of every three home fires started in the kitchen and more than 140,000 fires a year were related to cooking. Most of these fires occur from leaving cooking unattended.

A few key points to remember:

- Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended, and keep a close eye on food cooking inside the oven.
- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (e.g. potholders, towels, rags, drapes and food packaging).
- Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of three feet around the stove. Keep pets from underfoot so you do not trip while cooking.
- Never use a wet oven mitt, as it presents a scald danger if the moisture in the mitt is heated.
- Always keep a potholder, oven mitt and lid handy. If a small fire starts in a pan on the stove, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Don't remove the lid until it is completely cool. Never pour water on a grease fire and never discharge a fire extinguisher onto a pan fire, as it can spray or shoot burning grease around the kitchen, actually spreading the fire.

- If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you and your clothing.
- If there is a microwave fire, keep the door closed and unplug the microwave. Call the fire department and make sure to have the oven serviced before you use it again. Food cooked in a microwave can be dangerously hot. Remove the lids or other coverings from microwaved food carefully to prevent steam burns. ❖

Babysitting List

Maggie Craig (age 16) 301-260-2847

Chezley Polk (age 16) 301-924-1908

Justin Stine (age 15) 301-570-4261

To be included in the next newsletter, please send the names of others interested in babysitting to David Sager at davids4001@gmail.com. ❖