

# NEWSLETTER

## New HOA Board Members

At the February Annual Meeting, three homeowners were selected to fill vacant At-Large seats on the Board of Directors. They are David Sager, Bret Stine, and Mark Wesolowski. ❖

## Accomplishments for 2016

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

### Architectural Committee

- Projects approved: 1 shed, 1 deck, 1 sidewalk, 1 façade, 1 solar panel project
- Architectural Committee amended the approval letter to clarify that the homeowner is responsible for obtaining all County permits and adhering to the requirements set forth by the County

### Landscaping Committee

- The fence at East entrance was removed.
- The sidewalk along Bordly Drive was repaired.
- The street trees in the community were trimmed.
- The streets in the community were resurfaced.
- The landscape vendor (Estes) continues to do a good job.

### Communication Committee

- Four HOA newsletters were published and distributed by email.
- The HOA web site was kept up to date

### Archeology Project

- A fireback was unearthed and sent out for restoration.
- Various artifacts were discovered.
- The project will resume in the Spring.

### Other

- Trash removal ❖

## HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on the following dates: Thursday, April 13 (O'Loughlin residence); Tuesday, June 13 (Sands residence); Thursday, September 14 (Thear residence); and Tuesday, November 14 (Milke residence). All homeowners are welcome to attend. ❖

## HOA Web Site

The Brookeville Farms HOA web site is located at [www.bfmdhoa.info](http://www.bfmdhoa.info). This site includes information pertaining to the HOA such as Architectural Review 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@bfmdhoa.info](mailto:bfneighbors@bfmdhoa.info)". This list has been used to find recommendations for service providers, find carpool buddies, and to participate in group purchasing agreements (like, propane and whole-house generators). The Homeowners Association newsletter is also distributed to this list.

To add your e-mail address to the list do the following:

- Using your web browser, go to the HOA web site - [www.bfmdhoa.info](http://www.bfmdhoa.info).
- Select "E-mail List" from the left column.
- Fill in the form at the bottom of the page. ❖

## Streetlights

For the safety of the neighborhood it would be appreciated if you help by reporting when a streetlight near your house is not operating correctly. You may report it to Montgomery County by dialing 311 or online at [www.mc311.com](http://www.mc311.com). You will need to give the address of the street light or the pole number. The County will send someone out to fix it within a few days. ❖

## Preventing Lyme Disease

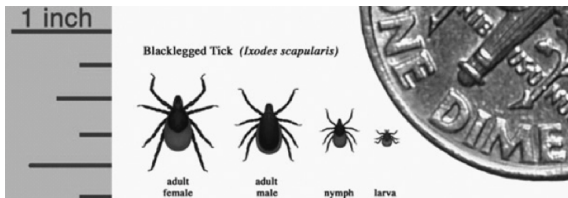
*The following article is provided by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services in their pamphlet titled, "Preventing Lyme Disease in Montgomery County."*

Spring and summer bring warm temperatures, just right for walking in the woods and other outdoor activities. Warm weather also means that ticks become active and this can lead to the transmission of Lyme disease.

**What is Lyme Disease?** Lyme Disease is a bacterial illness transmitted by a tick bite. Ticks are infected with bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, and pass the infection on to humans through the bite. It was first identified in Lyme, Connecticut in 1975. Although the disease is found most frequently in the Northeastern and upper Midwest states, many cases are reported each year in Montgomery County.

**How Can You Catch Lyme Disease?** The blacklegged tick (formerly called deer tick) is the most common carrier of Lyme disease. Ticks are most commonly found in wooded areas or areas with tall grasses and low vegetation.

The life cycle of a tick is approximately two years and Lyme disease can be transmitted at any stage of the life cycle. This is important to know because tick larva and nymphs are very small and hard to see. A nymph is about the size of a pinhead and larva are smaller. They can easily be missed if one is looking only for adult ticks (see the illustration).



A tick (or larva or nymph) must be attached to a person for several hours in order to infect the individual. It is important to check for and remove ticks, nymphs or larva as soon as possible after you have been in the woods.

**What are The Signs and Symptoms of Lyme Disease?** One or more of the following symptoms usually mark the early stages of Lyme disease:

- Circular or oblong rash, called erythema migrans (EM), at the site of the bite - more than 70 to 90 percent of individuals bitten by an infected tick develop a rash, which can grow from two to three inches in diameter to as much as 20 inches. As it gets

bigger, the center of the rash clears giving it a "bull's eye" appearance. The rash does not itch or hurt and so it is not always noticeable.



- Headache
- Fever
- Muscle and joint aches
- General fatigue

If left untreated, Lyme disease can progress to an early phase affecting the joints, nervous system or heart. This occurs several weeks to months after the tick bite. In a small percentage of infected people, late symptoms may occur months to years later with long term nervous system problems or arthritis. If you experience these symptoms and have been in an area that may be infested with ticks, be sure to tell your doctor that you have been in a tick-infested area. When Lyme disease is detected early, it is usually mild and easily treated.

**How to Prevent Lyme Disease?** Ticks do not jump or fly onto people or animals. They wait on low vegetation and attach to hosts (mice, deer, people, etc.) as they walk by. Follow these steps to protect yourself:

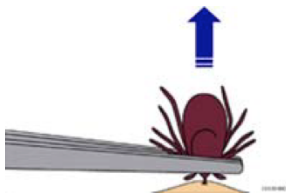
- Avoid tick-infested areas such as tall grass and dense vegetation
- Walk in the center of mowed trails to avoid brushing against vegetation
- Keep grass cut and underbrush thinned in yards
- Follow directions carefully if chemicals are used for tick control or hire a professional
- Eliminate the living places of small rodents
- Wear light-colored clothing so that ticks are easier to see and remove.
- Tuck pant legs into socks and boots. Wear long-sleeved shirts buttoned at the wrist.
- Check yourself, your children and your pets daily for ticks when you have been in a tick infested area.
- Apply tick repellent to areas of the body and clothing that may come into contact with grass and

brush. Repellants include those containing up to 50% DEET for adults or less than 30% DEET for children. A repellent/pesticide containing 0.5 percent permethrin may be applied to clothing, but should not be used on skin.

- Follow directions carefully and do not overuse repellants. Some tick repellants can cause toxic or allergic reactions.
- Ask your veterinarian to recommend tick control methods for your pets. Animals can get Lyme disease, but they do not transmit these diseases to humans. Remember, however, pets can bring ticks into your house.

**How To Remove Ticks.** Because ticks do not transmit disease until they have been attached to the host for at least several hours (and sometimes several days), it is very important to remove ticks as soon as they are found. The following is the best way to remove a tick:

- Grasp it with tweezers as close to the skin as



possible and gently, but firmly, pull it straight out. Avoid any twisting or jerking motion that may break off the mouth parts in the skin. Mouth parts left in the wound will not transmit the disease, but they may cause a minor irritation or infection, similar to a reaction to a splinter.

- If tweezers are not available, protect your fingers with gloves, tissues, or a paper towel. Do not touch the tick with bare fingers. The disease-causing organism can enter the body through a break in the skin on fingers and cause the disease.
- After the tick has been removed, wash hands with soap and water. Apply an antiseptic to the bite site.
- Dispose of the tick by drowning it in alcohol or flushing it down a drain or toilet.
- Tick removal using nail polish, petroleum jelly, alcohol or a hot match is not safe.
- If you get sick, and you have been exposed to ticks, be sure to tell your doctor about your tick exposure.



### Drive safer on slick roads

- Slow down and avoid hard braking to prevent hydroplaning.
- Give cars in front of you at least six seconds of space on wet roads. Use a street sign or other fixed object to

measure your distance. Start counting when the rear bumper of the vehicle in front of you crosses that fixed object. If you reach the object before six seconds, you're probably too close.

- Check your tire pressure regularly and make sure your car's exterior lights are in working order. ❖

### It's the Law

Having a pet is a big responsibility. As a dog owner, do you know of the law about picking up your dog's poop aka "the Pooper Scooper" law. If your dog does his business anywhere other than your yard you have to pick it up or risk getting a \$100 fine. The poop can be placed in a plastic bag. As long as this bag is then placed inside another plastic bag it's acceptable to put it in your regular household trash. ❖

"You must keep sending work out; you must never let a manuscript do nothing but eat its head off in a drawer. You send that work out again and again, while you're working on another one. If you have talent, you will receive some measure of success - but only if you persist." -- Isaac Asimov

"There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed." -- Ernest Hemingway

"It came to me that every time I lose a dog, they take a piece of my heart with them. And every new dog who comes into my life gifts me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be dog, and I will become as generous and loving as they are." - Author Unknown