

NEWSLETTER

HOA Officers Elected

The homeowners association Board of Directors have elected the following officers for the 2020 calendar year:

President: David Sager

Secretary: Randy Sands

Treasurer: Phil Craig ❖

HOA Board Members

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

Shane Hickey

Chris Milke

John O'Loughlin

Bret Stine

Chrysa Thear

Mark Wesolowski ❖

HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on the following dates: Thursday, June 13 (Sager residence); Thursday, September 17 (Sager residence); and Tuesday, November 14 (Sager residence). All homeowners are welcome to attend. ❖

HOA Web Site

The Brookeville Farms HOA web site is located at 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". 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.
- Select "E-mail List" from the left column.
- Fill in the form at the bottom of the page. ❖

Clean up after your pet

Did you know:

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a typical dog excretes 274 pounds of waste per year.

Pet Waste is Dangerous to Your Health

- Pet waste is more than just a nuisance – it is also a serious health hazard. It is considered raw sewage and can contain harmful bacteria and parasites that can be tracked into your home and infect you, your family, and even your pets.
- Every time it rains, thousands of pounds of pet waste left on the ground is washed into storm drains that may lead directly into our streams, causing pollution in our waterways.

What Can You Do?

- Every pet owner plays a part in preventing water pollution in our watersheds. Responsible pet owners pick up after their pets, both at home and on public land.
- Carry disposable bags and pick up pet waste when out on walks, in your yard, or in a park. Properly dispose of pet waste by bagging and sealing the waste and depositing it in a trash can or pet waste receptacle. Do not place it in a storm drain or leave it on the ground.

What is Our Watershed?

A watershed is the total land area, including your yard, from which water drains into streams, rivers or other bodies of water. Montgomery County has two major watersheds, all of its land area draining to either the Potomac or Patuxent Rivers, both which eventually flow into the Chesapeake Bay.

IMPORTANT: Pet owners who do not properly dispose of pet waste may be subject to fines for each offense. ❖

Clean and Disinfect

Cleaning and sanitizing surfaces in your home can help lower the chances you or a loved one will contract Covid-19 and lower the chances you might spread it to someone else. Keeping your home (and self) sanitized helps everyone. The Centers for Disease Control recommends we all take steps to clean and sanitize high-touch surfaces in our homes.

Keep Yourself Virus-Free

Wash Your Hands

The best way to lower your risk of contracting Covid-19 (or pass it on to someone else) is to wash your hands after you cough, sneeze, touch your face, use the restroom, or are about to leave one place for another. You should wash your hands when you leave and return from the grocery store, for instance. If you can find any, hand sanitizer is a fast cleaning method that works wonders. Hand sanitizer is no substitute for washing your hands with soap and water, though. It's also important to liberally moisturize your hands. Dry, cracked skin is at greater risk for all kinds of infections, so after you wash, apply a little moisturizer.

Stay Home

Even if you're not sick, just stay home if you can. Being in large crowds or going out to restaurants pose unnecessary risks not just to yourself but to the people around you. The more you're in public, the more chances the novel coronavirus has to hitch a ride on your hands, clothes, or person. Millions of people are very vulnerable to this virus. Putting yourself at risk also puts them at risk.

- Stay at home except for essential trips to get groceries, etc.
- Wear a cloth face mask in public.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from other people in public.
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
- Avoid touching your face.

Keep Your Home Virus-Free

Clean and Disinfect

Cleaning and disinfecting are two very different things. The CDC recommends we all do a bit of both, even if nobody in your home is sick. Cleaning is about removing contaminants from a surface.

Disinfecting is about killing pathogens. Do both daily if anything or anyone has entered or exited your home. Transmission from person-to-person is a much greater risk than transmission via surfaces, but

the CDC recommends we clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in our homes at least once daily just to be safe, assuming we have had contact with the outside world in some way, either a person leaving and returning or goods coming in.

Target Your Home's High-Touch Surfaces

Researchers have found that the novel coronavirus is capable of living on surfaces such as cardboard for 24 hours, but up to two or three days on plastic and stainless steel. So cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces is a step we should all take, even if we aren't leaving the house. Anytime items or people come in and out of your home, there is some possibility of exposure.

High-Touch Surfaces to Clean and Disinfect Daily:

- Doorknobs
- Table surfaces
- Hard dining chairs (seat, back, and arms)
- Kitchen counters
- Bathroom counters
- Faucets and faucet knobs
- Toilets (seat and handle)
- Light switches
- TV remote controls
- Game controllers

First Clean, Then Disinfect:

1. First, clean the surfaces, removing any contaminants, dust, or debris. You can do this by wiping them with soapy water (or a cleaning spray) and a hand towel.
2. Then apply a surface-appropriate disinfectant. The quickest and easiest way to do this is with disinfecting wipes or disinfectant spray.

Adding these to your daily routine can help lower the risk of infection for you and anyone else in your household. If you aren't able to obtain disinfectants at this time, just do a thorough job with the soap or cleaning agents you do have.

Disinfectants:

- Disinfecting wipes (Clorox, Lysol, or store brand will do)
- Disinfectant spray (Purell, Clorox, Lysol, all make sprays that will work)
- Isopropyl alcohol
- Hydrogen peroxide

Does the Laundry Machine Work on Clothes?

Yes, mostly. Just washing your clothing with regular laundry soap and drying it at a slightly higher temperature than you might have otherwise is all you have to do to disinfect your clothes. Be sure to disinfect surfaces the dirty laundry comes in contact with, including the hamper and your hands.

Should You Disinfect Food and Snacks?

No, not without reason. According to the FDA, there is no evidence to suggest that food or food packaging can transmit the novel coronavirus, so there is currently no need to disinfect food or food packaging any more than you usually would. Just observe standard food safety and wash your hands afterward.

Should You Disinfect Packages and Mail?

Yes, lightly. According to the USPS, mail and packages are relatively low-risk for transmitting the novel coronavirus, and packages from China pose no special risk compared to packages from anywhere else. That said, researchers have found that it can live on cardboard for around 24 hours, so giving packages a once over with a disinfecting wipe isn't a bad idea.

How to Disinfect Your Devices

Disinfecting wipes are the best way to clean your devices, hands down. But some devices have special considerations.

How to Disinfect Your Phone or Tablet

If you have them, disinfect an iPhone or Android phone with a disinfecting wipe or alcohol solution (at least 70 percent). Make sure you pay special attention to the screen, the buttons, and anywhere dust and pocket lint tend to get trapped. Also make sure you remove any case that's on your phone or tablet, clean underneath, put it back on, and clean the outside. Following the CDC recommendations for other high-touch surfaces in the home, a once-daily disinfecting isn't going to hurt your devices.

How to Disinfect Your Computer

Laptop displays aren't always made of glass (matte displays are plastic) so avoid using a disinfecting wipe on the screen, just in case. The display should be cleaned with isopropyl alcohol (70 percent) solution and a soft towel. Make sure you wipe down the keyboard, the trackpad, the exterior, and where your wrists rest on the laptop.

The best way to clean desktop computers is with a disinfecting wipe or isopropyl alcohol solution and a soft towel. Avoid disinfecting wipes on the monitor, just in case it is not glass—stick to isopropyl alcohol. But otherwise, just make sure you wipe down the mouse (top, sides, and bottom), the keys on your keyboard, the exterior of the keyboard, and any mousepad you might have.

Don't Forget Accessories

For any other electronic device, if the exterior is largely plastic (gaming mice, gamepads, TV

remotes) it's safe to give them a once-over with a disinfecting wipe or isopropyl alcohol solution. ❖

Smoke Alarms

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) has had several significant fires, including some in which people died, where there were no working smoke alarms present. Please make sure your home has working smoke alarms! Test yours today! Your life may depend on it!

Follow these easy tips on smoke alarms:

- One of the best ways to protect yourself and your family is to have a working smoke alarm that can sound fast for both a fire that has flames, and a smoky fire that has fumes without flames. It is called a "Dual Sensor Smoke Alarm."
- Place a smoke alarm on the ceiling of every level of your home and both inside and outside bedrooms. Children and older people can sleep through the loud sound of a smoke alarm. Make sure your escape plan includes someone that can help children and others wake up immediately to escape from the home.
- If you keep your bedroom doors closed, place a smoke alarm on the ceiling of each bedroom.
- Check smoke alarms monthly by pressing the test button.
- Never take smoke alarm batteries out to put into other items like games or remote controls.
- Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear the alarm sound.
- If there is a fire, leave the home right away by crawling low under the smoke and never go back inside.
- If smoke from cooking makes the alarm sound, press the "hush" button, if your alarm has one. You can also turn on the kitchen fan, open a window or wave a towel near the alarm until it stops making the sound. Never take the battery out of the alarm.
- Most alarms need a new battery at least once a year. Some smoke alarms have batteries that last for up to 10 years. If your smoke alarm is over 10 years old, replace it with a new alarm and a new battery. ❖

"The only really good place to buy lumber is at a store where the lumber has already been cut and attached together in the form of furniture, finished, and put inside boxes." -- Dave Barry