

NEWSLETTER

HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on the following dates: Tuesday, January 5 (Sager residence); Thursday, February 18 (Annual Meeting - RE/Max Realty Centre); Tuesday, April 12 (Sands residence); Thursday, June 9 (Stine residence); Tuesday, September 13 (O'Loughlin residence); and Thursday, November 17 (Thear 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, change, or remove 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. ❖

Pepco Right-of-Way

Pepco maintains a right-of-way under the power lines that cross Bordly Drive near Lubar Way. No trespassing signs are posted. However, numerous neighbors have been disturbed by ATVs and motorbikes that enter the right-of-way and ride under the power lines. Thanks to the efforts of Board member Chrysa Thear, Pepco has erected additional barriers to prevent this. Unfortunately, this

has not stopped all trespassing. Neighbors are encouraged to call the Montgomery County Police on the non-emergency telephone number, 301-279-8000, if riders are seen on the Pepco right-of-way. ❖

2015 Winter Wonderland

Please come and enjoy the 2015 Winter Wonderland Holiday Light Display at 20304 Lubar Way, Brookeville, MD. Stroll along the paths to see the snowman, penguins, candyland, polar bears and so much more. Donations will be accepted for the Manna Food Center (cash/check, non-perishable food items), and the Nina Hyde Breast Cancer Center (a part of the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center).

- Starting on Saturday, November 28 from 6:30PM to 10:30PM.
- Open Thursday through Sunday from November 30 to December 16. Closed to visitors on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays for the first three weeks of December.
- Open 7 days a week from December 17 to January 3, 2016 from 6:30PM to 10:30PM.
- Lights and display will be open later on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Years Eve.
- Signs will be posted at the Lubar Way entrance displaying dates and hours of operation. Closing due to inclement weather will also be noted.
- Parking will be available on Lubar Way on the left after entering (in the common area) and at the entrance to Lubar Drive. These areas will be identified with signs. Visitors should park here and walk down to the display.
- Handicap parking will be available in front of 20309 Lubar Way.

Smoke Alarms

Did you know that smoke alarms need to have a retirement plan? Once your alarms reach the ripe old age of 10, they are eligible for "retirement" and need to be replaced by a new generation of smoke alarms. Even if your 10 year old, or older, smoke alarm still sounds when you push the test button, it should be replaced. ❖

Thefts of credit cards

The longer it takes you to notice your credit cards have been stolen, the more time crooks have to pull off illicit shopping sprees. It has been reported that thieves in Montgomery

County have stolen wallets from purses that were left unattended in shopping carts, lifted the credit cards, and then returned the wallets.

Police remind residents to keep safe while shopping by following these tips:

- Carry a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- Keep your purse closed and as close to your body as possible.
- Do not become distracted by your shopping. Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Park in well-lighted parking lots and park as close to the mall or store as possible.
- Lock your car doors and keep packages hidden in the trunk or under the seats of your vehicle.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash with you – pay with checks or credit cards when possible.
- Don't leave purses on the backs of chairs or in shopping carts.
- Try to avoid carrying a large number of bags. Make trips back to your vehicle to store packages in the trunk as you continue to shop. ❖

Pet Licensing Requirements

All dogs and cats four months of age or older must have a current rabies vaccination and a Montgomery County pet license. A pet license is required even if the dog or cat is always on the owner's property, is always indoors, or lives on a farm. The rabies tag provided by your veterinarian is NOT a County license — the license must be purchased separately.

Pet licensing is now available online at <http://www.licensepet.com/montgomerycounty> For assistance, please call 240.773.5660

Licenses may be purchased through the mail if your dog or cat has a current rabies vaccination. To obtain an application, call the Licensing Unit at 240-773-5660 or print the application at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/animalservices/Resources/Files/licensing.pdf> and mail to:

- 7315 Muncaster Mill Rd., Derwood MD, 20855
Attn: Licensing

Pet Licensing Can Save Your Pet's Life

- When local residents find stray pets, they can call Animal Services. If your pet gets lost, a license tag on your pet's collar is the fastest way to find you when your pet is found. Even if your pet is microchipped, a license tag is immediately visible and doesn't require a scanning device to read it, like a microchip does. With the license numbers, your pet will never even have to come to the Animal Services and Adoption Center.
- Animal Services will contact you right away if a good Samaritan brings your pet to the Center and if your pet is

wearing his pet license tag. Last year 1,025 lost pets were reunited with their owners.

- When an Animal Services Officer picks up a lost pet in the field, the officer can quickly identify the owner and may be able to bring your lost pet right back to your home.
- If your pet is found injured and wearing its license, Animal Services Officers will attempt to obtain emergency medical attention for it and contact you with the details.

Licensing Fees

- Dog/cat under one year of age – FREE
- Altered dog/cat over one year of age – \$12 per year
- Unaltered dog/cat over one year of age – \$25 per year ❖

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. ❖

Pleasant Hill Archaeology Project

by John O'Loughlin

From March through October, a team of volunteer archaeologists led by Robert Hines of Richard Montgomery High School conducted a survey at the historic home of the Riggs family, Pleasant Hill, the ruins of which sit within part of the common area of Brookeville Farms. Samuel Riggs built the home on the land then known as Pleasant Hill in approximately 1769. The Pleasant Hill farm remained in the Riggs family until the early 1900s. The home fell into ruins in the middle of the 20th century and was destroyed by two fires in the 1970s. All that remain today are the foundation, part of the porch and steps, and a collapsed chimney. Nearby are the ruins of outbuildings and the Riggs family cemetery.

During this year's archaeological dig, the team discovered a number of interesting artifacts, including those pictured below. Historical records indicate that the Riggs house may not have been the first dwelling on the property, and the researchers discovered a brick floor that may have been part of that earlier house. In addition to 18th and 19th century artifacts, the researchers also uncovered remnants of tools used by Native Americans, suggesting that the hill where the house once stood was also a favorable location for hunting or winter encampment.

The team plans to return to the site next year. We will keep residents posted as the research progresses. ❖



Foundation as it appears today



Blade



Foundation wall excavation



Brick floor excavation



Bullet



Printed whiteware



Key



Graver