

# NEWSLETTER

## HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. The last meeting of the year will be held on the 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](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. ❖

## Pick Up Your Dog's Poop

- 1) Dog poop is not fertilizer like cow manure. Contrary to popular opinion not all poop is created equal. Dogs have a high protein based diet that creates a very acidic excrement or waste product. Cow manure is good for vegetation because it started out that way. A dog's diet is very different. Most dog foods are composed of beef, chicken, and/or pork products. This creates a high acidic waste product that is bad for grass.
- 2) Dogs are a host for bacteria that are harmful to humans. One gram of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria. Dog waste can spread giardia and salmonella as well.
- 3) Not picking up after your dog is illegal. It is unlawful for any person to allow an animal to cause unsanitary conditions within Montgomery County. An owner is required to immediately and properly dispose of a pet's solid waste deposited on any property, public or private, not owned or possessed by that person. Any person in violation is subject to a mandatory fine of \$50.00
- 4) Parasites from dog waste can be passed on to children, adults, and other dogs. Some of the possible ways a dog or cat can obtain various different parasites, viruses, and bacteria from poop include: rolling in the feces, pawing at it, and eating it. Some ailments that can affect humans are: Parvo

Virus, Trichinosis, Whipworms, Hookworms, Roundworms, Giardia, and Coccidia.

5) One pile of pet waste can take a year or more to fully breakdown.

6) And, if you do collect your dog's poop in a baggie, please take it home with you.

7) If you want to go green, you can use compostable bags like the Flush Puppies Doodie Bags or the BioBag Pet Waste Bags and then compost them in the Doggie Dooley Waste Disposal System. Such compost should never be used on plants that grow vegetables and other foods, but it makes great fertilizer for flower gardens ❖

## What to Do if the Power Goes Out - And You Do Not Have a Generator

Candles are not the best lighting option in the event of a power outage. When an electrical storm knocks out your power, reach for battery-powered flashlights or lanterns instead of real candles. If you must use candles, avoid carrying them around, leaving them near windows or linens of any sort, or using them to inspect confined spaces like closets and attics. Above all, extinguish all your candles before bed. Falling asleep contributed to 11 percent of home fires caused by candles and 30 percent of associated fatalities on average between 2009-2013, according to the National Candle Association. Candles also consume a small amount of oxygen and can produce a small amount of carbon monoxide. ❖

## Simplify and Downsize in Your House

The tiny house movement has taken the country by storm. While some people believe it is a passing fad, advancements such as including tiny houses in the International Building Code mean these small abodes are likely here to stay. You may love watching them being built and decorated on television, but you might not want to live in a home smaller than 400 square feet yourself. Try taking some of the ideas presented through tiny living to

simplify and downsize your own home. Here are some tips.

#### One Room at a Time

Decluttering your home can be overwhelming. The best advice anyone can give is to start small, with one room at a time. In fact, you can start even smaller with one drawer, cupboard or closet. Once that first space is cleared out, you'll start to feel more confident about the process in general.

#### Don't Say Maybe

Many people struggle with deciding what to toss by creating a "maybe pile." You see something and you're not sure whether you want to keep it, so you set it aside and put off the decision. If you haven't used an item recently, when will you? It's important to be definitive about your items. Either it stays or it goes — there is no in between.

#### Understand Emotional Attachment

There will always be things that, while not useful, give you a feeling of sentimental attachment. It's OK to keep things you like just for the sake of liking them. The trouble comes when you attach this kind of sentiment to everything you own. Understand your emotions and make decisions appropriately. If you can live without the piece, take a photo of it before donating or selling it. For family heirlooms, give them to a close relative who will also appreciate the connection.

#### Embrace Technology

Lots of people want to keep books, movies, music and other media in large collections, but they do take up space. Downsizing your library is easier than ever before with the use of digital media. Books, movies, television shows and music are all available online through streaming or downloading.

#### Find Relief in Fewer Things

In the end, once you've cleared out the clutter from one or two rooms, you will start to feel lighter. You don't have to live under the emotional weight of your belongings. To paraphrase tidying expert Marie Kondo, popular from her Netflix series and book, the things you keep should "spark joy" for you in all aspects of your life. ❖

### **Can Dogs See Color?**

Have you ever wondered if your dog can truly see all the colors we can? We're sure you've heard it before, the idea that they might only see in black and white? This is merely an oft-repeated myth according to studies done by Dr. Jay Neitz, professor at the University of California.

After testing the color vision of dogs, Neitz confirmed that they do, in fact, see color, but there are some very interesting differences between what pups see and what we see. For one, dogs see fewer colors than humans, and there are variations to what they see. "Most humans see the rainbow as violet, blue, blue-green, green, yellow, orange, and red while dogs see blue, light blue, gray, light yellow, darker yellow, and a very dark grey."

Color vision in dogs is possible due to specialized cells in the retina called cones, according to Veterinary Ophthalmologist Dr. Shelby Reinstein. When these cells are stimulated, they transmit a signal to the brain which is then perceived as a particular color. Humans possess three types of cones while dogs possess two types of cones. This is why your pup's ability to perceive colors is limited.

While your pup might not see every color of the rainbow, they do enjoy quite a few visual advantages over us humans. Dogs have pupils that dilate to the max, allowing them to capture as much light as possible. According to Dr. Eric J. Miller, assistant professor of clinical comparative ophthalmology at Ohio State University's Veterinary Medical Center, dogs also have reflective cells under the retina which form the tapetum.

The tapetum gives dogs the shiny eye appearance and also improves their ability to see in dim light. You might know this shiny eye look more commonly as retroreflection. Dogs also have more rod cells in their retina than humans. Rods are responsible for detecting motion and small movements at a great distance! No wonder your pup wants to chase those squirrels on the other side of the park! ❖

### **Scamming You Through Social Media**

#### Overview

Many of us have received phishing email, either at work or home. These emails look legitimate, such as from your bank, your boss, or your favorite online store, but are really an attack, attempting to pressure or trick you into taking an action you should not take, such as opening an infected email attachment, sharing your password, or transferring money. The challenge is, the more savvy we become at spotting and stopping these email attacks, the more cyber criminals try other ways of contacting and scamming us.

Attempts to scam or fool you can happen over almost any form of communication you use—from Skype, WhatsApp, and Slack to Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, and even gaming apps. Communication over these platforms or channels can feel more informal or trustworthy, which is precisely why attackers are using them to fool others. In addition, with today's technologies, it has become much easier for any attacker anywhere in the world to pretend to be anything or anyone they want. It is important to remember that any communications that come your way might not be what they seem and that people are not always who they appear to be.

#### Key Takeaways

Here are the most common clues that a message you just received or a post you just read may be an attack:

Urgency: The message has a sense of urgency that demands "immediate action" before something bad happens, like threatening to close your account or send you to jail. The attacker wants to rush you into making a mistake.

Pressure: The message pressures you to bypass or ignore policies or procedures at work.

Curiosity: The message invokes a strong sense of curiosity or promises something that is too good to be true. No, you did not just win the lottery.

Sensitive: The message includes a request for highly sensitive information, such as your credit card number or password, or any information that you're just not comfortable sharing.

Official: The message says it comes from an official organization, but has poor grammar or spelling. Most government organizations will not use social media for official communications directly with you. If you are not sure if the message is legitimate, call the organization back, but use a trusted phone number, such as one from their website.

Impersonation: You receive a message from a friend or co-worker, but the tone or wording just does not sound like them. If you are suspicious, call the sender on the phone to verify they sent the message. It is easy for a cyber attacker to create messages that appear to be from someone you know. In some cases, they can take over one of your friend's accounts and then pretend to be your friend and reach out to you. Be particularly aware of text messages, Twitter, and other short message formats, where it is more difficult to get a sense of the sender's personality.

You are the best defense against scams, cons, and attacks like these. If a post or message seems odd or suspicious, simply ignore or delete it. If it is from someone you personally know, call the person on the phone to confirm if they really sent it. ❖

## Tips for a Successful Indoor Garden

As winter approaches, your outdoor plants begin to die off for the year, which means it's time to focus on your indoor garden. An indoor garden is a great addition to any home because it keeps the critters outdoors and away from your plants. You also get to enjoy eating fresh, homegrown vegetables even when they're out of season. Growing vegetables indoors isn't all that different from doing it outdoors. All you need are these steps.

Step 1: Set up a series of containers and flowerpots on a flat surface such as a table or an area of floor that isn't occupied. Make sure to choose an area of your home where pets or children won't disturb your growing plants.

Step 2: You will need to mount a grow light, such as a fluorescent rack or clamping lamp so that it hangs directly above the plants. Make sure you are using grow light bulbs in order to give your plants the optimum amount of light. If your plants are too close to the light bulbs, the leaves can burn. Be sure that you keep a fair amount of space (about 6-8 inches) between the top of your plants and the bottom of the lights to ensure that your plants are receiving the right amount of light to grow successfully. Keep the heat from building up below your grow lights by running an oscillating fan. The fan will encourage strong and straight growth in your plants' main stems.

Step 3: Fill each pot with plant seeds, soil or seedlings according to the packaging instructions. The best types of vegetables to grow indoors are cucumbers, onions, radishes, carrots, lettuce, tomatoes, and peppers.

Step 4: Make sure to keep your soil moist to help your seeds and seedlings begin to grow and become established. Check on your plants daily to ensure they're getting an adequate amount of water.

Step 5: Check your plants for bugs and pests on a daily basis. The sooner you find a pest or bug, the easier and sooner you can identify it and treat it with the proper natural remedy or pesticide. If you wait too long to find a pest, it could mean the end of your plants!

Step 6: Be sure to fertilize your plants based on the preferences of the type of plants and vegetables you are growing. Some will need to be fertilized only once (when they're planted), and others will perform better if they're fertilized again before they bloom or after blooming.

Don't assume that just because it's winter you can't have a vibrant garden. ❖