

Brookdale *bugle*

BCA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Dick Podolske

**Brookdale Citizens Association Annual Meeting
May 19, 2022 - 7:00 pm**

Board President Richard Podolske called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and introduced new Brookdale residents in attendance.

The Year in Review:

Dick Podolske summarized significant events and accomplishments of the past year that included the July 4th parade; Rising Start for K-5; Block party; October Porch Fest; Halloween celebration; Mariachi in the park with ice cream truck; Luminaria 2021; and Christmas caroling. Due in large part to the efforts of Brookdale neighbor Wendy Smith, Boundary Park was spruced up.

Park Bench dedication to Amy Rispin:

The Board sought authorization to spend \$3,500 to purchase, inscribe, and install a park bench in Brookdale Park in honor of Amy Rispin. The membership approved the expenditure.

Nomination and Election of Brookdale Officers:

The nominating committee's recommendations for officers were as follows:

- President, Dick Podolske
- Vice President, Brookdale North, Mike Makuch
- Vice President, Brookdale South, Jack Morton
- Vice President, Wolshire, Tom Husted
- Vice President, Orcharddale, Manuel Ochoa
- Vice President, Park-Newport, Peter Biersteker
- Secretary, Darcy King-Leatham
- Treasurer, Heather Paul
- Representative-at-Large (north of River Rd), Adrienne Nassau
- Representative-at-Large, (north of River Rd), Maha Haddad
- Representative-at-Large (north of River Rd), Sybil Erdman
- Representative-at-Large (south of River Rd), Lisa Clark

The slate of officers was unanimously approved by voice vote.



Presentation of the first "Neighbor of the Year" Award:

In the past year plus, Abner Oakes (4807 Dover Ct) has given Brookdale neighbors a fantastic way to celebrate coming together again after the strain of a national pandemic. Music lightens the spirit, and Abner was responsible for gathering old and young alike to sing, dance, and hum to a Mariachi band (twice!) and a folk singer in Dalton Park. He also was instrumental (pardon the pun) in organizing our first-time-ever Front Porch Fest, encouraging local musicians and singers to perform mini-concerts outside their front doors or in Dover Court, to the delight of a traveling lawn audience. And Abner inspired another idea: a stalwart band of carolers who sang in our streets in December to celebrate the season. Because he has created a new and vibrant tradition in the Brookdale community, the Brookdale Citizens Association bestowed upon Abner Oakes the first "Neighbor of the Year" Award.

Speaker Presentation:

Natalie Avery of the Friendship Heights Alliance was the guest speaker of the evening. She spoke about The Friendship Heights Alliance, a new nonprofit organization comprised of large property owners focused on transforming Friendship Heights in Washington DC and Maryland through place-based economic development, greater collaboration among stakeholders, and a renewed focus on public spaces. The District of Columbia and Montgomery County have pledged funds to the alliance. Natalie fielded questions and encouraged neighbors to complete a retail market survey that seeks to learn about our residents' preferences and perceptions of Friendship Heights.

Raffle: Two lovely gift baskets were awarded

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

The Annual Meeting minutes and the Treasurer's Report can be found on the Brookdale website under "About Us"

Little Libraries

Judy Rivlin

Have you ever wondered about the presence of the little “libraries” in Brookdale? In 2009, Todd Bol of Hudson, Wisconsin, built the first streetside book cabinet as “a spiritual gesture” to his late mother, a schoolteacher. The idea led to creating a non-profit organization for book-sharing around the globe. There are now well over 100,000 registered Little Free Libraries around the country and the world. And while there is an app showing the locations of registered Little Free Libraries, there are even more unregistered. Anyone can install a library without any need to register.

The motto of Little Free Library is “Take a Book, Leave a Book.” Unlike a public library, they operate on a goodwill basis. There is no expectation that borrowers will return the same book; however, the hope is that people will contribute another book or magazine to share with others. Contemporary literature tends to come and go with the most frequency, but the libraries reflect their neighborhood and even the season. Over the winter holidays, we noticed a steady stream of cookbooks coming and going. Sometimes we see a rush of SAT study tools and other exam-related books. Our library has hosted murder mysteries, books of history and politics, travel guides, and kids’ books, all reflecting the diverse interests and hobbies of Brookdale.

Brookdale is home to 2 little free libraries, with many more within easy walking distance. In 2016, Stacy and Julian Yochum installed one on Cortland Road in front of their house. In the fall of 2021, we installed one at the corner of Westport and Dalton Roads. For our little library, Eric found a design he liked on Etsy and commissioned the woodworker to build it using our specs, including a copper roof. Eric added a green patina to the roof and finished the little library using paint stains. Other locations include:

- 5111 Saratoga Avenue
- 4901 Crescent Street
- 5002 Glen Cove Pkwy
- in front of Westbrook Elementary School
- 5721 Ellicott St, NW in Washington DC

As stewards of the library at our house, we intend to offer some special-themed weeks in the next few months. We are thinking of different periods of history and mysteries, in particular.

Come see what’s available, and feel free to take or leave a book, or two! For more information, go to littlefreelibrary.org



The Yochum's Little Free Library



The Rivlin's Little Free Library



Welcome new BCA Board Members!

BCA Board Vice President for Park-Newport: Peter Biersteker, along with his wife, Carol, has been a Brookdale (Park Place) resident since 1985. He was a lawyer in private practice before retiring in 2021. His hobbies include exercise, reading, and the Nats.

BCA Board Representative-at-large for Brookdale (north of River Rd): Maha Haddad moved from DC to Brookdale in 2017 with her husband Mohamad, their two sons, Zak and Ray, and their American Eskimo dog, NafNaf. They enjoy friends and family gatherings around Lebanese cuisine. Maha teaches film at Howard University and Mohamad is a neurologist at GW.

How to Clean Gutters and Downspouts

Lisa Clark

Cleaning gutters is a dirty job, but it's important to protect your home. Why? Because gutters direct rainfall away from your home, helping protect against leaks and other issues.

You should ideally clean your gutters at least twice a year, in autumn and spring when leaves, twigs, and buds fall.

Gutter cleaning gear

Odds are, you'll need a ladder to reach your gutters. You'll also want to pull on some gloves to protect your hands from sharp twigs or errant pieces of metal.

Scoop and remove debris out of the gutter, being careful not to push the muck down the downspout. When you're finished, rinse the gutters with water from a garden hose; fill the gutter to make sure it drains correctly.

How to clean downspouts

Sometimes leaves and twigs can clog downspouts, those rectangular waterways that catch gutter water and direct it to your yard and away from the house. This is part of gutter repair.

To clean downspouts, train a pressure washer down the spout and onto caked-together debris, suggests Brock Hall, owner of New Vision Exterior Solutions, in Amarillo, TX. "The water will also help get rid of mud," he says. If water isn't up to the cleaning task, stuff a garden hose or plumber's snake down the spout and push the obstructions through. Then turn on the water, which will force broken-up debris out the bottom.

If none of these techniques works, you'll have to do some sleuthing to find out what's sticking to downspout walls and joints and preventing water from flowing through.

Tap on the length of the downspout, and when the sound changes from a hollow echo to a solid thud, you'll have located the clog. Detach the downspout from the side of the house, remove debris, and spray water down the spout to make sure the problem is solved.

Neighborhood Directory Update Update

Lisa Clark

Paul Rispin and I are actively gathering household information to update the Brookdale Neighborhood Directory. Huge thanks to all that have already responded!

If you weren't aware of a directory update, or if you've not sent your information to Paul or me, **and you want to be included in the directory**, please complete the enclosed form and scan or mail it to either of us. Or you can go to the website at brookdalecitizens.org, scroll to the bottom of the first page under Quick Links, click on the **Online Directory Update Form**, provide your information and click on Submit.

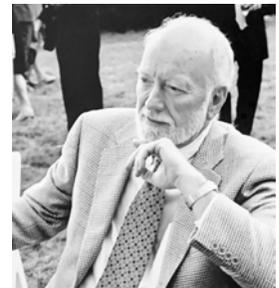
Even if your information hasn't changed from the 2019 directory, in order for it to be as accurate as possible, we'd still appreciate the courtesy of a reply.

Renter? Yes, you can be included in the directory.

Questions? email callisamc@gmail.com

Passing

David Sheridan, a resident of Brookdale for over 50 years, passed away on Thursday, June 23. He was a truly remarkable individual, listing escorting JFK, marching with John Lewis, reporting for Life Magazine before & during the moon landings, and participating at age 77 in the protests at Standing Rock among his many, many incredible accomplishments. David is survived by his adored wife Lynn*, son Brian, daughter-in-law Maria, two grands, two nieces, and extended Sheridan clan.



*Lynn, who in addition to producing the first issue of the Bugle on a hand-cranked mimeograph machine in the Sheridan's basement, also served as President of the BCA.



And there was music!

Music in Brookdale Park on Saturday, June 18th, that is. It was a lovely evening to sit, relax, and enjoy the sounds of singer/songwriter Kevin Connolly. Thank you, Abner Oakes for arranging the concert, and thank you, Kevin, for your talented performance.

Birds, Bees, and Brookdale

Lolly Jewett



Top 10 Ways to Create a Healthier Ecosystem in Your Backyard

You've heard that native plants are better for the environment. Did you know they're better for you, too? As humans, we're wholly dependent on the life-support systems nature provides: producing oxygen, cleaning water, controlling flooding and pests, photosynthesizing, pollinating crops, moderating severe weather, building and protecting topsoil, and removing atmospheric carbon. The fancy term for this is "ecosystem services." Without them, we'd be toast. The fuel for those ecosystem services is plants, which provide food and habitat for creatures large and small. The catch is that those flora and fauna have to be native for the whole apparatus to work.

How can we support healthy ecosystems in Brookdale? By creating native wildlife habitats. Here are 10 concrete ways we can all contribute to a healthier environment for ourselves, our kids and our grandchildren:

1. Add some native plants to your existing shrub or perennial beds. American Plant carries a selection. Wildflower Native Plant Nursery here in Bethesda is an exciting new option. Also consider Lauren's Garden Service in Ellicott City.

2. Replace an ailing tree or shrub with native species. Contemplate an oak tree: they're a superstar species.
3. Reduce the size of your lawn, which is an ecological desert. Maybe expand some garden beds, or install a new one where turfgrass now reigns?
4. Plant a container with native flowers, ferns or grasses.
5. Install a rain barrel to reduce runoff and provide irrigation.
6. Replace some of your pine bark mulch with "green mulch," aka native groundcover plants.
7. Reduce light and noise pollution around your home by rethinking exterior lighting and gas-powered leaf blowers.
8. Avoid using pesticides and fertilizers. The nice thing about native plants is they're adapted to local conditions so they require fewer interventions from us humans.
9. Leave some of your faded flower stalks up over the winter. Come spring, they'll provide habitat for native bumblebees.
10. In the autumn, leave fallen leaves on the ground (or at least rake them off your grass into your flower beds) to serve as habitat for overwintering critters and protection for your plants.

In future columns we'll discuss each of these topics in greater depth. Meanwhile, check out my weekly online newsletter at beesknees.substack.com if you'd like more information. You're welcome to subscribe for free!

The Little Falls Watershed Alliance

Lisa Clark, photos courtesy of Michael Oliwa

The Little Falls Watershed Alliance has been working for the environment since 2008. Primarily a volunteer-run organization, its mission is to restore and protect our local creeks and county parks. Mikel Moore, a volunteer board member, and Brookdale resident, recently headed up a group of folks to clean up invasive weeds from Brookdale Park. Thank you, Mikel and crew!



The Importance of House Numbers

Lisa Clark

How often do you think about the visibility of your house numbers? After all, you know where you live! However, house numbers aren't just for the convenience of the mailman and guests visiting you; they are essential for emergency responders who depend on those numbers to locate your house in an emergency. There isn't always someone available to wave down firefighters or a police officer to direct them to the trouble. Searching for house numbers not clearly visible can increase the response time and possibly affect the situation's outcome.

Consider the following:

Emergency responders look at the front of the house for the identifying numbers. If your numbers are on a sign or post placed close to the ground, amidst landscaping, or even on a mailbox, they will be more challenging to see. If vehicles park in front of your house regularly, they might be parking in front of your house numbers.

Here's a daytime and nighttime exercise for you – go into the street in front of your house. Turn around and take a good look at your home. Are the numbers clearly distinguishable and easily read from the road? If not, you might consider making changes to display your address more clearly.



Look familiar?



Large & tall



Backlit



Contrasting color

DON'T

- Post the numbers on the front door or the garage; the numbers aren't visible if those doors are open
- Allow shrubs, trees, plants to block the house numbers
- Obstruct the house numbers with holiday decorations

DO

- Numbers should be at least four (4") tall, not in cursive
- Script numbers or numbers spelled out in words may be aesthetically pleasing but are difficult to read quickly from the street
- Brass and bronze numbers develop a patina over time, making them difficult to see. Use numbers in colors that contrast highly with the color of your house
- Display the numbers in numerical format. Example: Use 1 2 3 instead of one two three
- Numbers should be visible when approaching from either side of the house
- Install a light above the numbers or use reflective or backlit numbers, so the address is visible at night
- If multiple homes use the same driveway to access their property, each address should be posted at the entrance of the driveway and then again at each home
- If your home is set back from the street and isn't visible from the road, post the house numbers at your driveway entrance

And if all your numbers need is a fresh coat of paint, that's easy. Whatever the case, your house will get an instant facelift, increasing its curb appeal, and emergency responders will be able to find your home quickly.

Brookdalebugle

Lisa Clark, Editor

The *Bugle* is the newsletter of the Brookdale Citizens Association (BCA), published and distributed to every home in the community four times a year (January, April, July, and October).

The announcement of upcoming editions and deadlines for submitting ads, articles, and notices will be posted on the listserv and the website. Brookdale website: www.brookdalecitizens.org

Brookdale / Bethesda Wildlife

Laura Geyer

A Brookdale resident recently reported to the listserv the sad loss of six pond fish, vanishing in the night. Later investigation revealed that three had survived the snatch by hiding, but what happened to the others? A broader discussion on the listserv concluded it was likely a visit by a heron, opportunistically enjoying the easy pickings' of the fish pond. Though not regularly seen inside the bounds of Brookdale, wading birds do fly over and have been seen in Little Falls stream and Rock Creek. The incident prompted more listserv posts by neighbors and family members of observances of any number of the nature around and about. My husband, David Geyer, who often walks late at night when the shyest creatures roam, has expanded our spotting list considerably. Many of you are aware that there are resident foxes with known dens in the River and Western Avenue and the GEICO buffer zones. We know there must be others because there are at least four different foxes that we've seen in our part of Brookdale, and foxes are territorial. You may occasionally hear their haunting cries during their mating season. Foxes are responsible for periodic grab-and-run attacks on newspapers which they use to line their dens. Not long ago, a neighbor posted about fox/newspaper thievery, and someone even had a video of one trotting off with a paper.



Fox at night - Michael Oliwa

Fox kits playing peek-a-boo!



The deer in this area lack apex predators and don't care what we think about where they should be. I was once crossing the GEICO parking lot around 4 pm, and almost ran smack into one, with four others nibbling the grass within 20 feet of me. And in the wee hours, they are out in force. David once rounded the corner at Andover and Merivale to see a magnificent multi-point buck standing there (presumably fresh from eating off the heads of all the daylilies or sampling the hostas). He and a neighbor recently shared their experience of hauling a garbage bin to the street when it suddenly started vibrating and a full-grown scared-to-death raccoon hot-footed it out of there. Raccoons are ubiquitous in the area and will eat pretty much anything. Another resident-animal encounter was the screech owl who vigorously protected her nest near Glen Cove Parkway past the pool. At least one person had his hat grabbed off in a dive-bomb attack on an early morning run. Our son Ben throws peanuts out for the posse of crows that periodically pass through. Crows are very intelligent and engaging to watch as they scoop up the peanuts and hold off the jays and other birds that line the trees waiting to pick up what the crows leave.

A walk at night is the best way to get some sense of the more secretive forms of wildlife among us. In addition to the creatures mentioned above, there are owls (screech, barred, and barn), goshawks and other hawks, and an occasional peregrine surveying for small game from power lines and trees. So, so many bunnies. Pileated woodpeckers, flickers, goldfinches, numerous songbirds, and mourning doves. Invasive birds like starlings, sparrows, and bats, wheeling and swooping around twilight. Opossums and woodchucks. Garter snakes, loads of squirrels, and the inevitable house mice and rats. Turtles, frogs, and toads. Butterflies and fireflies, and many other insects. A coyote was sighted a few years ago, and several are known to be in Rock Creek Park. I can say from experience that wildlife posts make for great reading on the listserv, so share your encounters!



A lone deer, at the corner of Cooper and Keokuk - Rafael Martinez

Just 2 ducks enjoying an early morning swim in a concrete pond - Lisa Clark



Real Estate Transactions | March 5 - June 21, 2022

Dominique Rychlik, Compass

Address	Sold / Active	List Price / Sold Price	BR	FB	HB	Lot sq ft	Yr built	DOM	Close Date
5326 Baltimore Ave	Active	\$925,000	4	2		5,000	1948	5	
5305 Willard Ave	Active	\$2,100,000	譚	喇	噴	5,000	1939	1	
4602 Cooper Lane	Closed	\$975,000 / 1,270,000	噠	噴	噴	5,355	1936	2	3.31.22
4906 Montgomery Ave	Closed	\$1,095,000 / 1,380,000	喇	噠	噴	5,700	1939	4	4.14.22
4711 Overbrook Rd	Closed	\$995,000 / 1,350,500	喇	噠	嚕	6,500	1938	5	5.9.22
5304 Baltimore Ave	Closed	\$1,150,000 / 1,455,403	噠	喇	噴	5,492	1948	6	5.5.22
5011 Westport Rd	Closed	\$1,675,000 / 1,950,000	喇	噠	喇	7,816	1963	3	6.3.22
5206 Saratoga Ave	Pending	\$1,300,000	喇	2	1	5,500	1949	6	6.21.22

Address	Rented / Active	Rental Price / Rented Price							
4611 Harrison St	Rented	\$3,500 / 3,500	3	1	1				5.27.22
5324 Baltimore Ave	Rented	\$4,800 / 4,800	3	3	1				6.14.22
5013 Brookdale Rd	Pending	\$7,500	6	4	1				8.1.22

In the three-month period covered by the last Bugle, we had 3 sales and 2 rentals, incredibly low supply.

In the four months since, covered in this report, we have had 8 sales and 3 rentals. While this number is still relatively low overall, it also tracks the increase in inventory we are seeing in the broader real estate market and is more in line with 2021 inventory for our neighborhood. However, since Brookdale is so highly sought-after, even with more inventory, we are continuing to see significant competition and price escalation (though some of the escalation reflects low pricing to generate a frenzy) as well as high preemptive bids, before full marketing.

In the broader market, the second interest rate hike has moderated demand somewhat, but well-renovated and very special homes, in low inventory neighborhoods, are still generating multiple offers and escalated prices. However, some homes are seeing "one good offer" and so pricing carefully is key. In the next issue we will be able to digest how the market reacts to upcoming interest rate increases. But it is important to remember that interest rates are still very low by historical standards and our neighborhood, so wonderful with excellent schools and close to Metro will continue to be in high demand.

A Bite to Eat - new spots in Friendship Heights

Jack Morton

Brookdale residents are fortunate to have two new restaurant choices at The Collection at Chevy Chase. Located in the former Ralph Lauren store, The Hunter's Hound and the Junction Bistro and Bakery (Junction), together with nearby Clyde's, Sushi Ko, and Lia's, have created a mini-dining destination on the Maryland side of Friendship Heights.

The two restaurants offer a relaxed setting with indoor and outdoor dining, each with a distinctive theme. While not outstanding, they are solid options in a previously shrinking Friendship Heights dining pool.

Falling under the gastropub heading, The Hunter's Hound, which stays open late, excels as an upscale Irish pub. You'll delight in food that's not the typical nachos or potato skins while sipping a nice pint of Guinness or your favorite cocktail. Menu favorites of mine include the meaty rotisserie chicken wings with either a dry rub or the traditional buffalo sauce, the house-cut fries, grilled broccolini, and the steamed mussels. And there's the fancy burger for \$18, fish and chips, and other appetizers and mains. At each visit, the food was good, and I like both

the large bar and the dining room. However, the service was a bit spotty, not unlike many places these days.

The Junction Bistro and Bakery (with Alexandria and Capitol Hill locations) is well regarded for its fresh baked goods. The eclectic all-day cafe menu will appeal to the entire family with choices that range from eggs and bacon for breakfast, cappuccino and croissant for a late-morning meeting, and stir fry in the evening. After orders are placed at the main counter in the well-lit modern space, servers deliver the food items to the tables. On recent visits, I enjoyed the \$5. happy hour beer specials, and the large-enough-to-share Cuban Sandwich with moist pork on a crunchy homemade roll with a side of crispy fries did not disappoint. I'd give the food a B rating, but the service was not in sync. I look forward in the coming months to a leisurely brunch on the patio or coffee with a friend.

Overall, The Hunter's Hound and the Junction Bistro and Bakery are welcome additions to the Friendship Heights dining scene that I hope continues to expand.

Westbrook 5th Graders Move On!

Jenny O'Shea

Westbrook Elementary School 5th graders had a wonderful week of festivities in June to mark their graduation as they move on to middle school. They started with a fun musical, *The Universe and Other Stuff*, on June 7, where students participated as actors, set designers, and lighting and audio techs. With the help of Roundhouse Theater, the students performed the show twice, first for Westbrook students during the day, and for 5th-grade families that night.

Later that week, the students and families attended a graduation ceremony at Westland Middle School. Each student shared a memory of their time at Westbrook, after which they sang a song, watched a slide show, and received their diplomas. Fifth-grade teachers Ms. Lundy and Mr. Elie, and Principal Cox, helped make the event fun-filled and memorable for all.

The week was capped off with a festive party for graduating students where they enjoyed games and music with a fantastic DJ. Thank you to all the families who helped make these events successful and unforgettable for our students and families.



2022 Dues are Due!

Heather Paul, Treasurer

If you've not yet paid your 2022 dues, please use the enclosed envelope to pay by check OR pay online at brookdalecitizens.org

Your \$40. contribution to the community supports the myriad activities that serve Brookdale, such as music and holiday events, the Bugle newsletter, and monitoring county-wide initiatives like commercial development and planning.

Thank you so much!

B-CC Graduates

Congratulations to B-CC High School graduates **Henry Baratz** who is heading to the University of Michigan, and **Stella Szostak** who will attend Princeton in the fall.

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us."
--- *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Newcomers and Farewells

David Knight, his wife Mary Stokes, their 9yr old daughter Anadora, and cat Edna are new neighbors at 5206 Saratoga Avenue.

Moving into 4513 Dalton Road later this summer are Dana Mittelman and her husband Joe Breslin, along with 3.5 yr old Edith and their geriatric dog Noya! *"We've already been able to meet a handful of neighbors, and we absolutely cannot wait to move into our forever home."*

Stuart and July Dwyer, and kids Evan and Cameron, have recently moved into 5011 Westport Road.

Joan Prince and her family, 4507 Dalton Road, are leaving Brookdale. *"This is the most wonderful neighborhood; I will miss it so!"*

Neighbors Ed & Connie Dufner, 5324 Baltimore Avenue, are also moving.

Your Classified Ad Here!

Do you or does someone in your household have a service or talent you'd like to promote? A free ad in the Bugle is a terrific way to get the word out!

To place an ad in the October edition, email Lisa Clark at callisamc@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events!



- Rising Start in the Park! - August 26/27
- Block/Park Party - September
- Friendship Heights Makers Market - Sept 10 music, makers, food, fun, and art
- Porchfest - October 15
- Halloween Party - October (date TBD)

Watch for listserv announcements for specific info about these and other happenings in the neighborhood!