

THE BROOKDALE BUGLE

Scheduled for delivery September 21, 2003



You can go directly to
the [New Officers](#)
[BCC Theater](#)
[Playground Equipment](#)
[Home Sales](#)
or [Upcoming events and groups.](#)

[Back to home](#)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

--Amy Rispin, Acting President

This Executive Committee column describes how we are handling our duties in light of the fact that the Nominating Committee did not locate a candidate for President this year. Fortunately, article V of the Association constitution describes how the Executive Committee is able to act on behalf of the Association between meetings of all members, and we have an Executive Committee that is willing and able to address the situation by rotating the presidency quarterly among the four Association Vice Presidents (July - September: Amy Rispin; October - December: Carol Mitchell; January - March: Sue Bruser; April - May: Nancy La Vigne). With a rotating presidency, the Executive Committee is currently addressing how to designate a single point of contact between the neighborhood and the various local government organizations, which update their files on a longer term basis.

We also have established three special committees to share responsibility with the Executive Committee in particular areas. Committee chairs will report to and represent the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will include special committee chairs in its meetings. Of course, between meetings, use of e-mail allows for rapid Executive Committee communication and action if needed. We believe that this new arrangement provides constructive opportunities for greater community participation in Association decisions.

A Special Committee on Quality of Life and Security is chaired by Richard Yates (301-657-8483). This committee is concerned with issues of traffic safety as well as litter, graffiti, and crime. It will seek solutions to these issues, and serve as the association's liaison with the Montgomery County Police, the Montgomery County

Council, and other governmental and private)organizations on these issues.

The other two special committees are the Building, Zoning and Development Committee, chaired by Kinley Dumas (301-229-6396), and the Annual Events Committee, chaired by Ellie Shorb (301- 652-6897). Ellie emphasizes that planning events such as Halloween and July Fourth festivities is a true committee effort and is seeking others to help. All three committees address important concerns for Brookdale residents and in order to work well, widespread participation from the community is necessary. People interested in joining special committees should contact committee chairs or plan to respond positively when approached for assistance.

The Association Area Liaison Representatives (Block Captains) act as liaisons between the Executive Committee and the community, a function that is particularly important to knit the community together, especially during the current transition from longstanding residents to newer families with many younger children. Block Captains are listed on the [Brookdale Citizens' Association web site](#). Block Captains help the association by distributing the Brookdale Bugle and other information, and welcoming new residents with an information kit. They will distribute the 2003 Brookdale Citizens' Association Directory as soon as it is fully updated and printed.

Introducing Your Officers

At the May 21 Brookdale Annual Meeting, the following officers were elected.

Sue Bruser, Vice President of Wohlshire, her husband Larry, and now teenage son Jonathan moved to Merivale Road from Manhattan in October 1989. Born and bred Californians, they moved in the day of the earthquake that halted the SF Giants/Oakland A's world series game. Initially working for the PR firm Burson-Marsteller in DC, Sue became a freelance corporate communications researcher and writer in '95. Her "spare time" activities include baking in the Bruser's newly renovated kitchen, fighting the weeds in their garden, and aiding congregation Kol Shalom. This is Sue's second year as VP.

Regina Reed Crosson, Treasurer, and her husband, Dennis, and two boys, Reed and Drew, have lived in Brookdale since July 2000. Regina works part time as a consultant in the mortgage banking industry, and full-time as Mom. She holds a MBA and BS from

Tulane University, and was a CPA in a prior life. The family enjoys canoeing, biking, and running, and is making the best of life in a construction zone. Regina begins her third year as Treasurer.

Nancy La Vigne, Vice President of Brookdale South, and her husband, Tom Marder, have lived in Brookdale since 2000. They have a 2-year-old son named John and a newborn named James. Nancy has a Ph.D. in criminology and conducts research on criminal justice issues for the Urban Institute in downtown DC. She enjoys cooking, biking, and wine tasting, but most of her time is spent on mothering these days!

Carol Mitchell, Vice President of Brookdale North, and her husband Shamsheer Singh moved into a house on Harrison Street in 1990 and now have two young children Karan and Anna Gayatri. After practicing law for 20 years, Carol is now on a sabbatical. The family enjoys music, biking, all kinds of sports, and relaxing in the Brookdale neighborhood, especially the park.

Amy Rispin, Vice President of Orcharddale, and her husband Paul are seventeen-year residents of Orcharddale, where they raised their two children, Peter and Sarah. Amy is a Senior Scientist at the Environmental Protection Agency. In her spare time, she likes to garden and plays the violin with community groups.

Hal Wolman, Secretary, and his wife Dianne have lived in Brookdale on Westport Road since 1996. They have lived in London, Boston, and Detroit. Hal grew up in Chicago as a long-suffering Cubs fan. He is the Director of the George Washington Institute of Public Policy and Professor of Political Science and Public Administration at The George Washington University. Hal begins his 4th year as secretary.

Where Have All The Flowers Gone?

Parks adorn Brookdale. They are for the enjoyment of everybody. Sadly, some people (residents and nonresidents) repeatedly have denuded the hydrangea bush in Boundary Park of every single blue blossom in the last few weeks and cut down every daffodil this past spring. Please don't pick the flowers. It detracts from the

beauty of our parks, and it is unlawful.

ANNUAL MEETING PRODUCES UNUSUAL RESULT

-- Barbara Ingersoll

The Annual Meeting of the Brookdale Citizens' Association, originally scheduled for May 7, was postponed until May 21 because, as of the 7th, there were no candidates for the office of president. In spite of the best efforts of the Nominating Committee, no candidate had been identified by the time of the meeting on the 21st either. According to Mike Makuch, chair of the Nominating Committee, the committee approached many candidates, some of whom had previously held office in the association. Citing other commitments, however, none of the potential candidates was available to serve for the current term. After electing the presented slate (see new officers [above](#)), those present at the meeting requested the Nominating Committee continue its search for a candidate for president. The meeting passed a resolution giving the Executive Committee the power to confirm a president, if one is found to serve. It is hoped that the search may be made easier by the actions of the Executive Committee to streamline the job for future presidents. In the interim, however, the Association lacks an officer who has been identified as the single point of contact between the neighborhood and various local government agencies, such as Parks and Planning and the Montgomery County Council.

In addition, if rapid action is needed in response to a potential threat to the quality of life in the neighborhood, that action must be spearheaded by a single individual who has been charged by the citizens with that responsibility (i.e., a president). If you would consider stepping into this position, please contact Mike Makuch (301-718-9134), Bob Cope (301-654-7891), Jordan Harding (301-652-3359), or Steve Heyman (301-654-1468), members of the ongoing Nominating Committee.

THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE B-CC SHOW BUSINESS

--Anne Farris

"Take a cutting-edge auditorium, add two dedicated,

tireless directors and a diverse, talented student body, and you have the recipe for the stunning shows that are the backbone of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School's Theater Arts program." This is the opening sentence on the school's Theater Arts Program website, and I couldn't compose a more apt description of my own experience with the theatrical troupe after my 15-year-old son, Ray, appeared in two of the school's productions last year. There are two advantages to having B-CC as Brookdale's local high school. In addition to high academic standards and a new \$40 million renovation, the school has one of the area's best theater programs for the general public's theatrical enjoyment. In fact, the program is so good that one father told me he transferred his daughter from a local private school so she could participate in the B-CC theater program.

Program Directors Matthew Boswell and Jennifer Hoover, who are studying at the Oregon Shakespeare Theater this summer, oversee four major theatrical productions each year. All the shows are open to the general public, and they are worth attending even without knowing a student performer or stage hand.

The school year begins with a children's theater production for elementary and middle school students from around the county. Each year, one senior is selected to direct the production, which is also open to the public during weekend performances. This year's production is Alice in Wonderland, with public viewing on Oct. 24 and 25. Past productions have included The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Charlotte's Web, and The Hobbit.

This year's fall musical, The Who's Tommy, is scheduled for December 5, 6, 12 and 13. Fall musicals in recent years have included Stephen Sondheim's Into the Woods, Cole Porter's Anything Goes, and Cabaret. Last year's production of Les Miserables included a cast and crew of more than 100 students, including musicians.

As soon as the fall musical is over, auditions begin for the spring play, which in previous years has included comedies such as Seasons Greetings, an all-female production of Steele Magnolias and Arthur Miller's Crucible. The 2004 spring play, not yet announced, is scheduled for March 19, 20, 26 and 27.

The final curtain call in the series of continuous year-round productions is the 2004 One-Act Play Festival, scheduled for May 21 and 22. The festival features one-act plays directed by students enrolled in the school's Play Directing class who are assigned to organize, cast and produce one-act plays.

B-CC is located at 4301 East-West Highway in Bethesda near the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and East-West Highway. For more information and ticket purchases, call the B-CC ticket box office at 240-497-6346.

LIST OF PERFORMANCES

Alice in Wonderland Oct. 24 and 25

The Who's Tommy Dec. 5, 6, 12 and 13

Spring Play TBA March 19, 20, 26 and 27

One-Act Play Festival May 21 and 22

Independence Day Parade A Big Success

-- Jesse Witten

Once again, Brookdale celebrated the Fourth of July with a neighborhood parade. About 200 people participated. Marchers, bikers, scooter-riders, children in wagons and one unicyclist paraded on Dalton Road, Sherrill Avenue, Merivale Road and Andover Road. The parade ended with a party at Brookdale Park.

Captain Jeff Williamson and Firefighters Pat Mann and Dana Evans from Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Station No. 6 brought up the rear of the parade in their shiny red 2002 Pierce Pumper fire truck.

Many thanks Natalie Howe, Ellie Shorb, Christie Perez, Laura Floam and Amy Kemper for organizing the event. As in the past, the parade and celebration were a great opportunity to see friends and neighbors, and for young and old to have a good time.

BROOKDALE PLAYGROUND RENOVATION

-- Fiona Carson

Last year on behalf of Brookdale, the Executive Committee appointed a committee consisting of myself, Maureen McGraith, and William Geiger to work with the Montgomery County Parks Department (MCPD) staff in determining new

playground equipment. In the spring, we surveyed all Brookdale residents to find out what kind of equipment kids would like and whether you wanted to move the playground across Dalton Road to the volleyball court area. The survey was very helpful, providing lots of ideas for equipment. Although some residents wanted the playground moved across the street and some didn't mind either way, the majority, for many reasons, did not want the playground moved. A few weeks later, we met with Lynn Witt and Linda Komes of MCPD, who will do their best to accommodate our requests. Most of the playground ideas were terrific, but some were just too expensive, and required too much space, to be feasible. However, the request for more swings was overwhelming, and swings are quite affordable. We have requested MCPD add at least one toddler swing and one regular swing, and more if we have room. We also asked that a couple of the regular swings have plank seats instead of belt seats, since bigger children have let it be known that the belt swings hurt their thighs! We also requested regular swings be 10 feet from the ground to the top of the horizontal pole (two feet higher than current swings, a height approved by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)), to accommodate bigger, older, kids, (8- 12) which many of our neighborhood children are already. As well as swings, we asked for:

- a fun center with little slides and a roof with platform for the toddlers;
- a fun center for the 5-12 year olds, to include the following (although in Fiona's opinion based on extensive research, most kids over 8/9 are too old for this, which is why we are asking for better swings to accommodate that age group);
- regular monkey bars, and slightly more exciting monkey bars called "the ring fling;"
- a good slide;
- a corkscrew (climbing structure);
- a couple of platforms with roofs for shade; and
- a tire swing, which would accommodate both age groups.

Our request sounds very basic and was intended to be so because we were given a budget of \$47,000. Since none of the brochures came with prices, it was impossible to figure out the budget ourselves. We are expecting the preliminary design any day now, and have been for several months. Once we receive it, we can tweak it or add to it All existing playground equipment, including benches, must be removed. (MCPS demands it). Therefore, the budget will include replacement benches and picnic tables. Because of the current drainage problems that some residents are experiencing due to run-off from the playground, we have asked MCPS to do some ground levelling. This also comes out of the budget. The CPSC requires a certain amount of space around each piece of equipment, which is considerably more than we have in our present playground. The swings take up quite a lot of space. We may lose a couple of straggly trees, although there are several beautiful trees in the playground area which should be preserved.

So far we haven't approached GEICO or other large companies for extra funding. The reasons are (a) We don't know yet how much equipment can be accommodated in the space provided. If there is not room for extra equipment, the current budget may suffice. (b) We are not sure Brookdale can handle a fabulous playground that would attract people and traffic from outside the neighborhood, possibly generating noise and parking problems.

Finally, we need to choose colors! The committee thought that green and blue would be nice and natural enough to blend in, but bright enough to please the children. The yellows and reds are very bright, and would perhaps spoil the natural look of the park, and apparently the red fades and the yellow looks grubby after a while. There's also white which looks very pretty, but would probably look dirty with time, and brown which is rather depressing and ugly. (This last sentence is only Fiona's humble opinion)!

Not much progress can be made until the preliminary design is received, and then we can decide whether it will be feasible to put more equipment in the space, and if so, whether we should go for outside funding. The committee welcomes your input.

If you are a newcomer to Brookdale, we hope you have already received a warm welcome. We would like to publicize your presence and other transitions in the Bugle. Please send them to Hal Wolman, Secretary, at 301-718-8438. If you don't have a copy of the Brookdale Directory, contact your area liaison representative. Please contact Shaazka Beyerle with additions or updates to the directory.

HALLOWEEN PARTY!

The annual Halloween party will take place Saturday, October 25, from 12:30 to 2:30 pm in Brookdale Park. Rain date is Sunday, October 26, same time. All are invited to come, in costume if possible. There will be children's games and hot dogs, burgers, and snacks for everyone.

Volunteers are needed urgently for lead organizer and helpers. Please call Ellie Shorb (301- 652-6897) to volunteer.

BROOKDALE BLOCK PARTY!

Nancy Wiegand is organizing a Brookdale Block Party for May or June 2004. Volunteers are needed. Call her at 301-654-0634 to volunteer.

HELP ORGANIZE A YARD SALE

Those interested in having a yard sale in early October, please call Ellie Shorb 301-652-6897 to volunteer to help organize it.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEW MOMS' GROUP

Join an ongoing, daytime group of new (and experienced) mothers to bounce ideas off new friends. Meets every other Wednesday 11-1 at participants' homes in rotation. Lunch included. Contact Tamar Nicolson for details (301-656- 6601).

GARDENING ENTHUSIASTS!

Everyone is welcome to share ideas on gardening.

Next Meeting: October 15 at 10 am Home of Gwen Lewis, 4512 Cortland Rd. 301-215-9224

If you are interested in attending but need an evening meeting time, let Nancy McCloskey (301- 652-7583) or Maryn Goodson know.

NEWCOMERS

Gaye & Bekir Gunes and their son Can (11 mos.), 5314 Baltimore Ave.
Suzanne and Michael Oliwa, and their 3 year-old son Derek,
5002 Dalton Rd.

Karen Lambert, Janusz Mrozek, and son Tad Mrozek, 5004 Dalton Rd.
Sylvia Scherr, 4844 Park Ave.

Cindi and Ken Cushing and their 3 cats are at 5308 Baltimore Ave., having come from Portland, OR

BIRTHS

Zoe Fast Wrathall was born to Jim Wrathall and Melissa Fast on Dover Court on June 12.

Theodore James Hamilton was born to Jim and Rebecca Hamilton on Dover Court on August 18.

Sarah Smith Sparling arrived Aug. 27 to join brother Jonah and parents Laurie Sparling and Peter Smith on Baltimore Ave.

ANOTHER BROOKDALE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

Emily Farris graduated in June from Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, DC. (Sorry we missed you before, Emily!)

BROOKDALE HOME SALES

-- Kathleen McElroy

The market exploded in the second and third quarters of 2003 after a sluggish first quarter supply. One house under contract in the first quarter settled as follows:

* 5002 Dalton Rd. settled at \$903,000.

The two active listings in the first quarter sold and settled as follows:

* 4844 Park Ave. listed 1/25 at \$410,000 sold in 6 days for \$435,000

* 5004 Dalton Rd. sold in 103 days on 4/29 for \$925,000

Active listings now include:

* 4802 River Rd., listed at \$550,000, reduced to \$529,000 on the market for 33 days.

* 5006 Dalton Rd., LP \$598,000 sold on 6/18 in 16 days and is back on the market.

Listings which are under contract:

* 4855 Park Ave., LP \$525,000, sold on 7/2 in 5 days

* 4600 Dalton Rd., LP \$829,000 sold on 5/29 in 14 days

* 4722 Merivale Rd. listed at \$649,500 sold 8/12 in 7 days

Listings sold and settled in this period:

* 5005 Brookdale Rd., LP \$759,000 sold 4/29 in 5 days for \$826,000.

* 4611 Merivale Rd., LP \$559,500 sold 5/7 in 5 days for \$587,775.

* 5213 Andover Rd., LP \$650,000 sold 5/7 in 14 days for \$640,000.

* 4960 Western Ave., LP \$450,000 sold 5/13 in 5 days for \$480,000.

* 4626 River Rd., LP \$695,000 reduced to \$630,000 sold 5/26 for \$630,000 in 18 days.

* 4712 Dover Rd., LP \$595,000 sold on 7/15 in 5 days for \$605,000.

* 4603 Cooper La., LP \$629,000 sold on 6/24 in 15 days for \$615,000

There were 3 private sales:

- * 5305 Sherrill settled 4/1 for \$425,000.
- * 5323 Baltimore settled 4/30 for \$592,000
- * 4811 Park Ave settled 1/22 for \$475,000.

The market in our area remains strong but interest rates increased sharply by almost 2% in a 3-week period ending August 4 before scaling back almost 1%. Mortgage rates are still very low by historical standards and the market should continue strong, especially close to town. The rates are not much higher than they were a year ago but we were really spoiled with 30 year fixed rates hovering around 5.5% and 15 year rates around 4.5% for some time. August is usually not a trend setter since so many people are away on vacation. Listings are due to come on right after Labor Day and the market is usually active until Thanksgiving before some slow down during the holidays. The vast majority of listings come on the market in the spring so the supply is greater. Escalators when there are multiple offers are less common than last year but the quality of the buyers and the peak of the escalators are lower. The distribution of sale prices in active, under-contract, and sold lists is quite different indicating a very strong market up to \$1,000,000 and a much slower market over \$1,000,000. There are virtually no houses for sale in Bethesda/Chevy Chase under \$400,000. The areas near Metro continue to be in great demand. Some of the most prestigious neighborhoods which are away from the Metro are no longer necessarily commanding the highest prices.

Kathleen McElroy is a resident of Brookdale and a real estate agent who provides this information as a service to Brookdale.

TREASURER'S REPORT -- Regina Reed Crosson

Covers May 1, 2001 - April 30, 2002

Beginning Balance \$9,115

Income (Dues Collected) \$4,970

Expenditures

Bugle Expenses \$771

Parties \$883

Welcome Baskets \$236
Misc. \$86
Legal \$583
Total \$2,559

Final Balance \$11,526

ASSOCIATION DUES

We are starting our 2003-2004 dues collection of \$20 per household. You may send your check payable to the Brookdale Citizens' Association to Regina Reed Crosson, Treasurer, 5110 Westport Rd. A drive to collect dues will be launched later in the year. To get answers for any questions contact Regina.

Classified Ads

The classified section of the Brookdale Bugle is provided as a service to Brookdale residents, who may place ads at no charge. A fee of \$15 will be charged for ads placed by non-residents, and all ads are subject to approval by the Brookdale Citizens' Association Executive Committee.

TREES

--Gwen Lewis

On Thursday, September 4, a large tree limb at a GEICO-owned home on Westport Road came crashing down on the residents' car shortly after the entire family had been under the tree. This scary event serves to underscore the need for expert inspection and trimming of older trees and the gradual renewal of Brookdale's tree cover. The Brookdale Tree Committee (myself, Fiona Carson, and Pearl Becnel) can help. So far, we have facilitated the requests of over 20 residents for trees through Montgomery County's street tree program.

If you would like to request a street tree from the county, look on the Brookdale website for information (check the links to "[local resources](#)"), and call Fiona (301-986-0574), Pearl (301-654-1991), or me (301-215- 9224). We shall be contacting the county within the next six weeks to make a request for spring planting.

The *Brookdale Bugle* is a publication of the Brookdale Citizens' Association.

Editor Gwen Lewis (301)215-9224

[Paper] Layout Steve Langer

[Paper] Distribution Britta Glennon

[\[Return to the beginning of this document\]](#)[\[To home\]](#)