

THE BROOKDALE BUGLE

Web edition of the distribution for September 2013

Photographs, addresses, emails, and phone numbers are omitted. Look to your paper copy!

Vice President's Report **– Bob Banach**

As summer and our wonderful neighborhood's 75th anniversary year draws to a close, we want to thank Diane Tanman for her great leadership as president of the Brookdale Citizens' Association the past two years as well as the work of the many volunteers on the anniversary committee (see chairperson Marie Moylan's update).

At our annual meeting in May we voted in the new executive board but without someone filling the president's slot. This isn't the first time the association was without a president and as in the past, we will rotate the lead role among the neighborhood VPs: Bob Banach, VP of Brookdale North, started off the year on June 1, Dan Byerly, VP of Wohlshire, will take the lead on October 1, and Yonce Shelton, VP of Brookdale South, will take the lead for the spring beginning on Feb. 1, 2014.

Your executive board met recently to discuss the house being constructed on Willard Avenue. For those not following the e-mails over the summer, an older house was knocked down and the new foundation appears to nearly fill the width of the small lot. The department of permitting services insists all permits and plans are proper but an eight-bedroom house with two kitchens and two laundry rooms doesn't fit the description of a single-family home. We continue to work with Councilmember Roger Berliner's office to see what, if anything, we can do besides register our opposition. We'll keep you updated of any progress or need from the community.

As in past years, we are soliciting ideas for neighborhood social gatherings for the fall and winter months -- so send in your ideas along with your dues for the new year.

Finally, although the neighborhood directory update has been delayed, with the number of homes being sold in 2013, we'll be able to add information about all our new neighbors. Last updated in early 2009, this big project should be complete later this fall.

Brookdale 75th Anniversary Celebrations Continue **– Marie Moylan**

We are now past the halfway point in Brookdale's 75th anniversary year. We have had our opening wine at cheese at Wisconsin Place featuring a video about the origins of Friendship Heights. We have a Brookdale anniversary logo and four Brookdale signs posted at four of the six entry points into Brookdale.

The party at the Kenwood Country Club on June 1 was a big success, thanks to the Planning Committee. 130 Brookdalers attended the event, with representation from all the streets in Brookdale. Committee members were Cathy Solberg (treasurer), Celinda Pena (M.C.), Wendy Smith, Mary Shivanandan, Joan McMillen, Helen Podolske, Dick Podolske, Sibyl Erdman, Stacy Yochum and Marie Moylan (chair). Regina Reed made a perfect Brookdale cake for the event, using the 75th anniversary logo designed by Mike Oliwa; Eric Sanne calligraphed name tags for the attendees; and Dick Podolske put together a 600-slide show of Brookdale, people and places, past and present, which ran on projectors throughout the evening.

Also in June, Amy Rispin, with help from her husband Paul, completed her "History of Brookdale," an amazing 96-page booklet complete with photos, which profiles our neighborhood from its origins and from various social and cultural perspectives. The book at \$10 a copy is now in its second printing. Copies can be obtained from Amy, and will be available for sale at future Brookdale events. In addition to writing her book, Amy led a walking history tour of Brookdale in mid-June. For the 35 people who participated, the tour was a great way to spend an afternoon. Amy had engaged various neighbors who live in historic houses in Brookdale to host a visit by the tour and to share their history.

On July 4, Denise Holmes, with help from her volunteers, organized a picnic and party for Brookdale families in the park. There were games for the kids and food for all. It was well attended and the Glen Echo Fire Department joined in the festivities by leading the parade.

Thanks to Anita Segreti, commemorative Brookdale T-shirts in all sizes have been for sale (\$10) at all of our events so far; in between they can be purchased from Marie Moylan.

By the time you read this, we will have had our annual street party on Dalton Road on September 7.

There have been many people who expressed an interest in seeing the 600-slide show of Brookdale past and present, which Dick Podolske put together for the Kenwood party. He is considering making copies of the slide show to be available in the future at a fee that will recover his costs.

Also keep an eye out for the soon-to-be distributed updated anniversary edition of the Brookdale telephone directory, which is the collective work of the block captains, coordinated by Bob Banach.

Finally, thanks are due to the Anniversary Planning Committee, which met many times in 2012 to decide what events would best celebrate the diversity and the history of our neighborhood and provide various opportunities for us all to get together and expand our network of friends and acquaintances. Members of that committee were Cathy Solberg, Bill Grigg, Anita Segreti, Jerry Knight, Dave Montgomery, Diane Tanman, Campbell Graeub, Bob Banach, Judy Rivlin, and Marie Moylan.

We are pleased to include an addition to the list that appeared in the previous Bugle of donors to the Brookdale sign project: Shaazka Beyerle.

Time for Brookdale Dues

It's time again to contribute to the cause --

- To keep your Bugle coming
- To support this year's community gatherings
- To ensure a quality response to any development initiatives that impact our neighborhood
- To leverage Brookdale's influence by working with neighboring associations

Unless you are among those who prepaid your dues at the annual meeting in May or at some other time since January, please use the enclosed envelope to send your \$30 check payable to the Brookdale Citizens' Association. Questions? Call Helen Podolske, Treasurer.

Minutes from May Meeting

– *Marie Moylan*

The Brookdale Annual Meeting was held at the Wisconsin Place Recreation Center in Friendship Heights on May 8th, 2013. About 75 residents attended the meeting and enjoyed the wine and cheese social beforehand. The agenda included introductions from outgoing BCA President Diane Tanman and the Treasurer's Report from Larry Broadwell, outgoing BCA treasurer. Nicole Tysvaer, chair of the BCA Safe Streets Committee, gave a crime update and Bob Cope, Brookdale's representative to the Citizens Coordinating Committee of Friendship Heights (CCCCFH), discussed development and zoning issues. Marie Moylan, chair of the BCA 75th Anniversary Committee, reviewed the planned activities for the remainder of the Brookdale anniversary year, including the anniversary party at Kenwood on June 1.

A new slate of candidates for the executive committee was proposed by Boyd McHugh, a member of the BCA nominating committee. The candidates were approved by the residents (see profiles of committee members). Since there was no proposed candidate for president of the executive committee for 2013-2014, the four vice presidents agreed that they would share the task, each acting as president for three months of the year.

Bios of New Officers

Bob Banach, VP Brookdale North

Bob Banach, vice president for Brookdale North, his wife, Michele Parisi, and son, Richard, have lived on Dalton Road since early 2009, after living in a Bethesda apartment for a little over a year. Bob was born and raised in Syracuse, NY, and moved to NYC to earn his MBA from NYU. With a wife tugging him to the suburbs, Bob reluctantly left his beloved city of 22 years, taking a job with ProShares and ProFunds in Bethesda where he is head of marketing

communications. Change has been good for everyone in the Banach-Parisi family here in Maryland.

Dan Byerly, VP Wohlshire

My wife, Kate, and I bought our house on River Road during the Snowmageddon of 2010 and moved in that spring. In 2011, we added our golden retriever, Jolene, to the family and in April 2013, we welcomed our son, Alex. Together, we love walking Brookdale's leafy streets and meeting neighbors. I am a former D.C. schoolteacher and administrator. I now work for Discovery Communications in the education division. This is my first year serving on the board.

Allie Hicks, VP Orchardale

My husband, Jim, and I bought our house on Willard Ave in 2001. Our three sons attend Westbrook Elementary. I am a Spanish teacher at Poolesville High School. This is my first year serving on the Board.

Helen Podolske, Treasurer

Helen Podolske, Treasurer, has lived on Andover Road with her husband, Richard, since 1978, with the exception of three years abroad in Moscow (1993-96). Helen was born in Chicago and has lived in Cambridge Springs, Pa., and Buffalo, N.Y., before moving to Washington to teach at the National Cathedral School. Helen has also worked as a researcher at the Smithsonian, has had her own catering business, and is currently a real estate agent with WC and AN Miller. Helen's husband is a retired World Bank staff member but has remained active as an international consultant. The Podolskes have a daughter, Anya.

Judy Rivlin, Secretary

With my husband, Eric, I have lived in Brookdale for over 20 years, and raised two daughters who successfully went through the local public schools. I am a labor lawyer, and work for the United Mine Workers of America. For several years, I have served as sous chef for the grilled pizzas at the annual Brookdale block party. This is my first year serving on the Board.

Yonce Shelton, VP Brookdale South

Yonce Shelton is the VP for Brookdale South. The Sheltons (wife JoJo, 4.5 year old son Cole, and bulldog Cash) moved here in May 2011 from Mt. Pleasant, DC. Cole is at Westmoreland Children's Center Westbrook Campus, JoJo has mastered the Metro ride downtown to her office at Google, and Yonce is doing spiritual formation work at the Carpenter's House near Westmoreland Circle (www.carpentershousedc.org), and is pastoring a small church in College Park (www.newleafchurch.org). They welcome meeting more neighbors!

Treasurer's Report

– Larry Broadwell and Helen Podolske

Thanks to the initiative and ability of those who organized projects to celebrate Brookdale's 75th anniversary with new signs, T-shirts, a summary of neighborhood history, and a commemorative dinner (held June 1, the first day of the fiscal year ending May 31, 2014), the Association's latest

year was a remarkable success. Funds available at year-end were double those of the year before, and included ample funds to see through plans for the anniversary dinner, to cover any future outlays for our new signage, and to carry on other activities.

New Zoning Code: Sanity is Out, Chickens are In – Bob Cope

As we mentioned in the last Bugle, the County is totally revising its zoning code. The Planning Board completed its work several months ago and sent its draft zoning code on to the County Council where the PHED committee (Planning, Housing and Economic Development) is now reviewing and revising the Planning Board Draft.

Some work was accomplished before the August recess, and it is anticipated that PHED will meet weekly in September and October, with a final draft going to the full council after Halloween. The full council will review and revise the PHED draft during several work sessions and a final code could be adopted shortly after the first of the year.

In addition to revising the zoning code, the council also has to convert the old zones to the new zones (the conversion process). For example, the part of the GEICO tract that is near Brookdale is currently zoned for townhouses. Since this zone is not being changed, the zoning can pretty much stay the same.

But the portion of the GEICO tract that abuts Friendship Boulevard and then runs along Willard Avenue is currently zoned TSM (Transit Station Mixed Use). Since the TSM zone will no longer be with us it is necessary to convert the TSM zone to one of the new zones. This is tricky, since the TSM zone does not have a specific height assigned to it.

So what is the height that should be assigned to the TSM zone? Well, in the past, the Sector Plan set the height for the TSM zone and this height would vary from parcel to parcel. The Friendship Heights Sector Plan caps the height for the GEICO site at 90 feet. The TSM zone was also assigned to the Collection, the Rodeo Drive stores on the other side of Wisconsin Avenue, and there the height was capped at 40 feet.

The Planning Board asked its staff to recommend new zones for all of the old non-residential zones in the county, including the TSM zone. Staff did this and in its report it proposed that TSM zones be converted to the new CR zone with a height that mirrored the height set out in the corresponding Sector Plan. Staff recommended that GEICO be rezoned to CR 90 feet and that the Collection be rezoned as CR 40 feet.

The Planning Board adopted the staff recommendation that all TSM parcels should be converted to the new CR zone, but rejected the staff recommendation on height. As to height, the Planning Board concluded that all TSM parcels should all be given the same height, and set that height at 200 feet.

This would provide consistency and would give the Planning Board flexibility in the future if they wished to deviate from (ignore) the sector plan. And so the Planning Board adopted a conversion map that rezoned all TSM parcels, including GEICO and the Collection, to a CR zone with a height of 200 feet. This conversion map was then sent to the County Council and can be found at www.mcatlas.org/zc (type in Friendship Heights).

Thank goodness, citizens complained, and the PHED committee heard their cry. To their credit, the members of the PHED committee viewed the Planning Board recommendation with skepticism; some would say they were outright dumbfounded. And so, after reviewing the conversion map, the PHED committee politely instructed the Planning Board to go back to the drawing board and redo the conversion map in accordance with the initial staff proposal.

Nevertheless, this is an ongoing process that we must monitor closely in order to make sure that the staff proposal is not changed. The new conversion map is supposed to be available sometime in September.

Unfortunately, the Planning Board also decided that the Giant site in Westbard needed a good dose of flexibility. The Giant site is currently zoned C1 with a height of 35 feet. Almost all strip malls in the county are zoned C1 (permits commercial but no housing).

One of the reasons for starting the rezoning process was to encourage mixed-use development in the county, especially on strip malls. Thus staff recommended that the Giant site be rezoned to CRN (a neighborhood mixed-use zone) with a height of 35 feet.

Seems fairly logical. But the Planning Board rejected this recommendation and instead recommended that the Giant site and other strip malls be rezoned to NR (neighborhood retail) with a height of 45 feet, an increase of 10 feet.

This is troubling because the extra 10 feet brings big box stores into play for these sites. We will need to monitor this situation closely in order to make sure that the new conversion map uses CRN 35 feet and not RN 45 feet, but we are not optimistic since the owners of strip malls are pushing for the RN zone and the extra 10 feet.

This is understandable since strip mall owners know retail and are not comfortable with residential. But the issue here is what is the most comparable zone and, in any event, it would seem that 45 feet is not comparable to 35 feet.

Meanwhile, the new code permits chicken coops in the back yards of residential properties, including R 60 properties. If you Google chicken coops you will find that you can buy a relatively inexpensive chicken coop. And of course since we live in Bethesda you can also buy the top of the line.

So the next time you mosey over to your neighbor's cocktail party or backyard barbecue, forget the nice wine or flower bouquet, and instead bring your neighbor a dozen fresh eggs from the back yard. Or better yet, maybe a fresh roaster for the rotisserie.

Now that chickens have won the initial round, the real fighting has begun. The chicken lobby, feeling its oats, is now pushing to increase the size of the allowable flock from six to maybe 12, and is pushing to do away with the setback requirements for chicken coops. Stay tuned.

Q&A with Jennifer S. Lane, Westbrook Elementary School's New Principal – Christine Ryan Jyoti

Westbrook Elementary School has welcomed a new principal, Jennifer S. Lane.

Lane grew up the daughter of a high school principal in Chelsea, Michigan. After working as a professional dancer in New York City, she completed a degree in Elementary Education at Hunter College and began teaching soon after.

The majority of her time in education has been spent in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). She was a teacher at North Chevy Chase Elementary School, a Staff Development Teacher, a Title One Instructional Specialist, and has spent the past five years as an administrator.

Lane is a Rockville resident and the parent of two MCPS graduates.

Q: What attracted you to Westbrook Elementary?

A: I'm impressed by the strong sense of community and the traditions of excellence that are a part of Westbrook. The parent community supports Westbrook students in so many ways; I'm excited to build on that existing school/community partnership. I'm delighted to be at a school that values the arts AND one that is committed to helping students to live harmoniously with our environment. That is a unique combination and one that has so many benefits for students and staff alike.

Q: What is your vision for the school?

A: My goal is to work together to create a school that prepares students to be successful in their future. This includes academically, creatively and as successful and happy human beings. I'm focused on the idea of the "whole child" and the idea that students need to be creatively and productively engaged with the school community in order to gain the most from their experiences at school.

Q: Are there any specific areas you will be focusing on this school year?

A: We will be implementing MCPS Curriculum 2.0 in all grades this year. That will allow us to have a school wide focus on the Thinking and Academic Success Skills (TASS) which are embedded in C 2.0. The focus on TASS supports the idea of the "whole child" and promotes the kind of creative problem solving and social emotional skills that will help our students to be successful. Westbrook already has some unique programs in place that support TASS. Two

examples that come to mind are our extensive Artist in Residence program and our emphasis on the environment through our 4th grade Chesapeake Bay grant, Aqua Eagles in 5th grade, Eco Defenders, Trash Free Lunch, etc. One of my goals this year will be to increase the integration of these areas into classroom instruction so that our special programs can support AND be supported by the curriculum.

Q: How can parents best support Westbrook?

A: Parents can support Westbrook in a variety of ways. One of the most important ways is simply by supporting your own child. Listen and ask open ended questions each day to find out what went well for your child at school and what challenges s/he experienced. Help your child to think about next steps to build on success or overcome challenges. Of course we are fortunate to have so many parents who are willing to give their time and talents to support Westbrook and we are grateful for that. However, even if you are unable to volunteer in a classroom, the media center, on the playground, in the dining room, or at an after school event, you still support Westbrook when you help your child to come to school happy, healthy and ready to learn.

Q: What would you like Westbrook parents and the general community to know about you and your leadership style?

A: I am a firm believer in the power of collaboration. I value two-way communication and I look for ways to work together productively. One of the most important things about working with others is the idea of positive pre-supposition. I come into every situation believing that those I work with are bringing "their best." This is true whether they are students, staff members or parents. As we work together to improve, my approach is to build on the positive.

Learn about Westland Middle School – Maureen McRaith

Westland Middle School is an International Baccalaureate World School located at 5511 Massachusetts Ave. in Bethesda. Westland draws students from areas of Bethesda, Chevy Chase, and Silver Spring. Seven elementary school districts, including Westbrook, feed into Westland Middle School. Students from the school districts of Westbrook ES, Bethesda ES, Rock Creek Forest ES, Rosemary Hills ES, and Somerset ES usually start at Westland as 6th graders. Students from the districts of Chevy Chase ES and North Chevy Chase ES join Westland at 7th grade.

Principal Alison Serino welcomed students back to school August 26, joined by the team of Mr. Jacob Lee, 6th grade administrator, Ms. Shawaan Williams, 7th grade administrator, and Ms. Laura Hennessey, 8th grade administrator.

For more information about Westland, please visit the Westland Website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/westlandms or call 301/320-6515.

For more information about the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program:
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/westlandms/about/ibmyp.aspx

Go Barons

– *Michelle Hainbach*

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, established in 1926, serves the Brookdale community. With over 1,800 students, B-CC offers a full complement of challenging academics and innovative programs, including an honors program, International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program and Middle Years Program, and more than 20 Advanced Placement courses. Unique features of B-CC's IB program are that it is "open enrollment" - - available to all qualified students; and it offers a "certificate" option -- allowing 11th and 12th grade students to enroll in one or more IB classes.

B-CC also provides a full range of extracurricular activities with over 20 junior varsity and varsity sports and several choral and instrumental performance groups. Each year, the Theater Department produces a musical and a dramatic production, as well as student-directed performances. Students publish an award-winning yearbook and literary magazine, as well as a monthly newspaper, The Tattler (available on-line at <http://tattlerextra.org>). There are more than 60 student-run clubs and organizations ranging from the Bridge Club to Ultimate Frisbee. B-CC students are also active in local, national and international social service programs including Best Buddies, Once Upon A Prom, and Operation Smile.

Parents play an important role at B-CC. The PTSA provides a volunteer network to support staff needs; funds teacher grants for curriculum resources and classroom programs; publishes a student directory and student handbook/planner; hosts staff appreciation and student recognition events; and is the sole sponsor of After-Prom, a safe, no-cost post-prom program for all seniors. Learn more about the PTSA at <http://www.bccptsa.org>

Brookdale residents interested in B-CC are encouraged to visit the school's website
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/>

Many community members enjoy attending B-CC's athletic events. This year's Homecoming football game will be played on Friday, October 4 at 6:30pm. Prior to the game, the school sponsors a community fair featuring food, games, face painting, line dancing and more activities for elementary and middle-school aged children. A full listing of B-CC athletic events can be found at <http://www.baronsathletics.org>

Many Brookdale residents are also regular customers at the annual PTSA Used Book Sale. Mark your calendar for the 13th Annual Book Sale on March 15 and 16. More than 25,000 gently used hardcover and paperback books are sorted into over 40 categories and displayed throughout the school's cafeteria and adjacent hallways. If you want to clean out your old books before buying new then bring your donations to B-CC on Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 22, 23 and March 1.

Another way for neighbors to support our local high school is to register their Giant and Safeway cards and designate B-CC. The funds raised through these "painless fundraising" programs constitute an important part of the PTSA's annual income. Here is how it works:

- Giant A+: Log on to www.giantfood.com/aplus to register online and designate B-CC using ID #00636, or call 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone.
- Safeway E-Scrip: Go to <https://secure.escrip.com/jsp/supporter/registration/step1.jsp>. A link to renew, marked "existing supporters" is at the end of that page.
- Additional information on these and other community fundraising programs may be found on the PTSA website.

New Willard Avenue Park Nears Completion – *Tino Calabia*

Willard Avenue Park welcomes bikers, joggers, and anyone out for a stroll through its woody enclave. But as of late August, small children, their parents and grandparents, other relatives and their nannies remained disappointed. Many of the bright and shiny fixtures of the children's playground were visible but tightly sealed off, stalling completion of the County's upgrading project.

Underbrush through much of the Park had been cleared, and several sturdy wooden benches had replaced a few older benches along the trails that wind their way from The 4701 Apartments (a.k.a. The Irene) down to River Road. A new basketball post with hoop and net stands proudly on the Park's halfcourt. Some trailside stretching and exercise stations for joggers also appear renovated.

However, the children's playground nestled by the brook running towards River Road had yet to be finished. An imposing anchor fence enclosed new Swedish-designed playground equipment plus a Bobcat excavator and frontloader. Black tarps covered other construction machines or possibly additional play fixtures. Much of the Kompan equipment -- including climbing structures, swings, and multiple slides - had been set into a freshly laid cement base, but the cushioning safety tiles were yet to cover the cement. Kathy Dearstine of the Montgomery County Department of Parks explains that the completion of the playground awaits the delivery and installation of the safety tiles.

When first posted, the County sign on the anchor fence announced that construction "is expected to last until August 31." Sometime in September seems more realistic. Stay tuned.

Three Persimmon Trees – *Laura Jeliazkov*

It was a crisp, sunny day in the fall of 1979. Pierce Corden was driving through farmland on the outskirts of Montgomery County with his family when some scraggly trees caught his eye. He pulled over and got out. The haphazard branches were bowed with small orange globes, and he reached up to pluck one. *Diospyros virginiana*; the American Persimmon. The fruit was nice and soft and broke easily off the branch, dropping into his waiting hand. Good and ripe. He collected a bunch, filling both hands, got back in the car, and drove home to Glen Cove Parkway in Bethesda, Maryland.

After Pierce and his family ate the persimmons, he decided to plant the seeds. When he was a young boy growing up in Tennessee, he was a Boy Scout and amateur dendrologist. Trees had always been his passion. So two little rows of earth were dug up, scattered with seeds, and covered again alongside his fence, where there would be plenty of sunlight. He watered them, and nurtured them, and by the next spring up popped two little rows of seedling persimmon trees.

The seedlings continued to grow, and when they outgrew the nest, Pierce gently uprooted his saplings and dispersed them - some around his yard and some along the banks of the creek across from his house. Now, 33 years later, three remain. They all stand at a slight tilt, reaching for the most sunlight, and they each bear small orange globes every fall.

Although rather obscure here in the States, persimmons are a very prominent element of the market in Asia. The species native to China is called *Diospyros kaki*, and its fruit, with a thin waxy skin and uniquely textured pulpy flesh, when harvested, is usually dried. The dried fruit is then eaten as a snack, dessert, or used for other cooking purposes. In Korea, persimmons are used in a traditional spicy punch called *sujeonggwa*, as well as in a vinegar called *gamsikcho*. In Taiwan, astringent varieties are soaked in limewater to rid them of their bitterness; they harden and are called "water persimmons" or "crisp persimmons." In Manchuria, the leaves are used for tea.

In Appalachia, the seeds are brewed to make a beer, or can be ground for making a hot beverage reminiscent of coffee. Persimmons were also known to have medicinal uses. They even play a role in weather folklore - it is said that when cut in half, the configuration of the seeds within will predict the severity of the winter. A knife shape means an icy cold winter looming, a fork shape indicates a mild one, and a spoon symbolizes a shovel to dig out of the snow with!

In North America, persimmon trees grow from the south of Connecticut to the tip of Florida, and west to Oklahoma and Texas. They were a staple of the Native Americans' diet, eaten raw or baked into a persimmon bread. The Algonquins called them "pessamin." When the European colonists landed in the New World, they were introduced to the fruit and took quite a liking to it. Today, in Indiana especially, persimmons are grown and harvested and popularly used in desserts such as pies, cookies, cakes and the noteworthy persimmon pudding. There is even the Annual Mitchell Persimmon Festival held in Mitchell, Indiana, every September. Now the trees are also cultivated in many countries around the Mediterranean, most notably Italy, where they are much loved.

The American variety is one of several that cannot be eaten when unripe. The fruit contains high levels of tannin, making it extremely astringent and bitter when not ripe - if bitten into it will

have a "chalky" or "furry" taste, and make your mouth pucker. John Smith was said to have written of it in 1612, "if it be not ripe it will drawe a mans mouth awrie, with much torment." But when ripe, the persimmon's sweet flavor is close to perfection. The flesh of extremely ripe ones can have the texture of pudding, and will often be eaten by removing the top leaf and actually scooping it out with a spoon.

Pierce walks barefoot out to his three persimmon trees and inspects the fruit. When it is ripe, he will pick some to eat. Maybe try planting some more seeds someday. But when it is ripe... not yet.

Officer Oliver Janney Takes Over as New Community Service Officer – Nicole Tysvaer

After a decade in the position, Community Service Officer Denise Gill retired from Montgomery County Police this past summer. Officer Oliver Janney, a 13-year law enforcement veteran working the Bethesda beat, stepped into the position in June and has already begun his role as a liaison between community residents and the police department.

But what does a Community Service Officer (CSO) do? According to Janney, the CSO works in partnership with community members to increase communication with the police and help problem-solve issues that patrol cops don't have the time or resources to tackle. For example, Janney provided mediation support in a dispute between neighbors concerning the trimming of a tree. He also distributes information about community events, posts statistics on crime trends, and works to educate the public.

"My goal right now is to help and teach the citizens safety issues," says Janney, "especially concerning theft from autos," which represents the vast majority of reported crimes in Brookdale and surrounding neighborhoods. Janney provides education by making presentations at community meetings, distributing regular e-mails to community members, and building a network of public safety contacts through neighborhood associations and other groups. Janney is also an instructor with the Montgomery County Police Citizens' Academy, which offers a 14-week program (one night per week, 6-9pm) that teaches ordinary citizens the inner workings of the law enforcement field.

So what is Janney's advice for keeping our neighborhood safe and secure?

- If you see something or hear something suspicious, report it immediately to the police non-emergency line: 301-279-8000.
- Lock your car doors! Take valuables out of your car!
- Leave your front porch LIGHT ON to deter criminal activity and help police see your address in case of an emergency or suspicious incident.
- Know your neighbors. Look out for them, and they will look out for you!

Janney communicates on a regular basis with Nicole Tysvaer, our Safe Streets Committee Chair of the Brookdale Citizens' Association. General comments related to community safety trends, events and scheduling presentations for Janney can be fielded through Nicole. However, Janney encourages residents to reach out to him directly with any non-emergency police department questions or concerns. Janney can be reached at phone 301-657-0962, Oliver.Janney@montgomerycountymd.gov.

UPCOMING EVENT:

New Montgomery County Public Safety Headquarters OPEN HOUSE - Saturday, September 21, 2013 (11am-4pm) - 100 Edison Park Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878. Great activities for kids - food, music, face painting, moon bounce. For more information, visit www.mymcpnews.com.

Brookdale Block Party Gets Residents Together

Brookdale neighbors turned out in force on the evening of Saturday, Sept. 10 for the annual Brookdale block party, held once again on Dalton Rd. near Andover Rd. Kids ran up and down the block, which was closed to vehicle traffic, while adults mingled near the heaping tables of food brought by residents. Regina Reed and Marie Moylan were responsible for convening the event and communicating with the community about it. The pizza team consisted of Eric Sanne, Judy Rivlin and Fiona Carson; various other neighbors contributed pizza dough. Mike Freeman, Linda Hallman and Adrian were in charge of the fire pit and s'mores. Furniture movers were Bob Banach, Don and Michelle Hainbach, Steve Langer, and Mike and Rick Freeman. Bill Geary prepared his now-famous jambalaya, a yearly treat at the party.

Real Estate Update **– Phyllis Wiesenfelder**

Here is the real estate activity for the second quarter of 2013:

Active Properties:

- 5200 Western Avenue. French Provincial built in 1937. 4 Bedrooms, 2 Full Baths. Listed for rent at \$3,800.

Under Contract:

- 5200 Westport Road. Cape Cod built in 1951 with 3 Bedrooms, 2 Full Baths. Listed for \$950,000.

- 4800 Park Avenue. Colonial built in 1933 with 4 Bedrooms, 3 and 1/12 Baths. Listed for \$976,000.
- 4627 River Road. Cape Cod built in 1938. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Full Baths.

SOLD Properties:

- 5002 Westport Road. Split Level built in 1952. 2 Bedrooms, 2 Full Baths. It was listed for \$649,900 and sold in 8 days for \$705,000.
- 5301 Sherrill Avenue. Colonial built in 1951. 3 Bedrooms, 1 and 1/2 Baths. It was listed for \$699,000 and sold in 6 days for \$750,000.
- 4709 Dover Road. Colonial built in 1936. 3 Bedrooms, 2 and 1/2 Baths. It was listed for \$830,000 and sold for \$805,000 in 17 days.
- 4637 River Road. Colonial built in 1938. 3 Bedrooms, 2 and 1/2 Baths. It was listed for \$849,750 and sold for \$865,000 in 7 days.
- 5212 Western Avenue. Colonial built in 1939. 3 Bedrooms, 2 and 1/2 Baths. It was listed for \$850,000 and sold for \$876,200 in 3 days.
- 4707 River Road. Split Level built in 1967. 4 Bedrooms, 2 and 1/2 Baths. It was listed for \$869,500 and sold for \$870,000 in 6 days.
- 4732 Merivale Road. Colonial built in 1949. 3 Bedrooms, 3 and 1/2 Baths. It was listed for \$975,000 and sold for \$950,000 in 14 days.
- 4508 Dalton Road. Dutch colonial built in 1938. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Full and 2 Half Baths. It was listed for \$1,000,000 and sold for \$1,086,000 in 7 days.
- 4816 Park Avenue. Colonial built in 1972. 5 Bedrooms, 3 and 1/2 Baths. It was listed for \$1,049,000 and sold for \$1,105,000 in 5 days.
- 5304 Saratoga Avenue. Colonial built in 1979. 4 Bedrooms, 3 1/2 Baths. Listed for \$1,350,000 and sold for \$1,272,000 in 15 days.

Congratulations to Brookdale's 2013 graduates!

High School Graduates:

Nils Bergmann, B-CC
 Golnaz Kamrad, Georgetown Day School
 August King, St. Paul Academy
 Keri Kitchen, B-CC
 Jeremy Levitt, B-CC
 Laura Nakasaka, B-CC
 Amanda Pirri, B-CC
 Andrew Schaengold, B-CC
 George Webster, St. John's High School

College Graduates:

Nina Godles, Brandeis University
 Nancy Makuch, Colorado College
 Sarah Sanne, Tulane University

Lauren Tanman, St. Mary's College of Maryland
Wagner Wiegand, Bucknell University

Other:

Thomas Richman, finished two-year stint in Peace Corps

Transitions

- Caron and David Baker and their sons have moved back to Britain.
- David and Irene Cutitta and sons Jason and Leo, who used to live nearby, are now in Brookdale. They bought the house from Anne Lewis, who moved with daughters Katie and Carolyn Blanton to D.C.
- James (Jamy) and Vicki Farrah.
- Tara Jamshidi and Ali Ebrahim, and children Saba and Sadra.
- New neighbors Camille and Jean-Xavier Bourre and children Vanille, Thais, Dune, and Virgile.
- Kevin and Lisa Kennelly, their two sons, Colt, 17, and Ransom, 14, and their dog, Cowboy.
- Susan and Gorman King have moved back to the neighborhood.
- The Millers have moved away after many years.
- Christine and Anthony Palumbo and son Rocco have also moved away.
- Monserat Bustelo and Leonardo Lucchetti.

Notices/Classifieds

Babysitting: My name is Laura and I am 14 years old. I am available to babysit during after school hours and occasional weekends. Safe-sitter certificate from the Suburban Hospital. Twice recipient of the "Community of Caring" award. Experience with toddlers.

Yard Work/Babysitting: I am Reed Crosson, a responsible 17-year-old Brookdale citizen looking to help out around your house by raking leaves, as a baby or child sitter, lawn mower, or yard work helper. I am good with kids and have had many babysitting jobs for various neighbors in the past. I am also good at yard work and am happy to mow your lawn for you, rake leaves, mulch garden beds, or do another type of yard work.

Children's Parties -- The Party Masters: Highly skilled entertainers for your child's next party. Many characters and princesses available, see pictures at our site, <http://www.thepartymasters.com>. Games, face painting, magic, balloon animals, dancing. Theatre games too for the older child. We now offer tea with a princess. Brooke has a MFA in Performance Art from UNC at Chapel Hill and is a member of the Screen Actors Guild, Actors Equity Assoc., and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. She is a new mom and teaches drama at Georgetown Day School.

Lawn Care: Leaf removal, gutter cleaning, grass cutting, mulching and fall planting. I highly recommend Ben Boyes Lawn Care Company. Ben and company do yard/lawn work for several residents on Westport Road. He has worked for me for over 20 years. I guess that makes him practically family! As autumn leaves start to fall, call Ben Boyes Lawn Care – *from Nancy Hervey, Westport Road*

Halloween

Stay tuned for information about Brookdale's annual Halloween Party!

Trash Collection

If you're new to the neighborhood or just need additional information about trash and recycling, please take a look at the Montgomery County website,
http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/swstmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/solidwaste/collection_services/trash/service_details.asp

The Brookdale Bugle is a publication of the Brookdale Citizens' Association.
It is published three times a year - January, April, and September.

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Visit Brookdale online at <http://www.brookdaleneews.org>

The deadline to submit articles, notices, and ads for the January 2014 issue of the Brookdale Bugle is 9pm December 30. Don't delay. Be early.