



Brookdale Bugle

..... www.brookdaleneews.org

President's Report

—Dick Podolske

Dear Brookdale residents,

Since the issuance of the last Brookdale Bugle in January, I am pleased with this note to report on a number of recent activities in our neighborhood.

Brookdale Bugle. Deborah Kalb along with Steve Langer have indicated their desire to retire from editing and formatting respectively the Brookdale Bugle. The Board of the Brookdale Citizens' Association (and I am sure the rest of the Brookdale community) wishes to sincerely thank both Deborah and Steve for their over 10 years of dedication and high quality work on our neighborhood newsletter. The high standards they set will be hard to match. Nevertheless, we are very pleased that Sibyl Erdman and James Hicks have agreed to step up with editing and formatting the Bugle starting with the September issue. Let's all work to help them by providing good material to inform our community.

Brookdale-at-Home. Our Brookdale-at-Home events continue to be an unqualified success. The concept is to encourage informal socialization among neighbors, to discuss matters affecting our neighborhood, and to share the knowledge, passions and experiences of our many interesting residents. Since the issuance of the last Bugle, Amy Rispin hosted a meeting on Jan. 21 on the topic of our Amish neighbors in southern Maryland and their quilts, Dave Nicolson provided important tips on how to research the genealogy of your family on Feb. 18, and Judy Rivlin and Eric Sanne hosted a meeting to taste a variety of beers on St. Pat's Day. Richard Leon will make a presentation on his experience as a Federal District Judge at the home of Joy and Campbell Graeb on April 21, and Diane Monash will present a piano Tangos concert at her home on May 19. Please look for the upcoming announcements on how and when to sign up for these events. (See story, p. 3)

Brookdale South Street Party. We are instituting for the first time a Brookdale street party in Brookdale South (on the "other side" of River Road, further away from Wisconsin Avenue). This event will occur on May 14. We encourage all Brookdale residents to attend as a way to better integrate our neighborhood. See separate article on this matter (p. 3) with more information, and watch for posted signage.

Brookdale Website. We are pleased to report that work is well underway to substantially upgrade the Brookdale website. This effort is being led by Amy and Paul Rispin with substantial technical support by Mike Oliwa. You may remember that this same three-person team was responsible for the tedious and time-consuming work of editing and publishing the latest Brookdale Directory. We are indeed fortunate to have their invaluable contributions to our neighborhood.

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County Council Passes Revised Westbard Plan

—Bob Cope

The Westbard sector plan has reached a key milestone: On March 22, 2016, the full county council reviewed the sector plan and unanimously passed a revised plan in a straw vote. The final vote will be taken in April.

The plan is fairly simple and can be explained as follows:

1. The south side of River Road from Ridgefield to Talbert's. This area will not be redeveloped in the near future because American Plant and The Roofing Center have indicated that they intend to continue operating their businesses. But the Willett Branch flows underneath these businesses and the county council wanted to give these businesses the option to redevelop so the Willett Branch could be daylighted and naturalized. The county council put a floating zone on these properties, which will allow them to apply in the future for new zoning that would permit 60-to-70-foot mostly residential buildings.
2. All the rest of River Road including the light industrial areas behind River Road. No change was made to the current zoning. The gas stations and auto repair businesses and landscapers should remain. The county council viewed the light industrial areas as providing jobs and did not want to eliminate these jobs.
3. Westbard Avenue on the Giant side. The Giant site will be rezoned to permit up to three times more retail with townhouses in the back of the site.
4. The bowling alley side of Westbard Avenue. The owners of lots in this area are the big winners. The area from Ridgefield Road (which will eventually curve through Westwood 2) all the way down to Park Bethesda will be rezoned for 75- and 110-foot buildings. Westwood 2 and the parking lot in front of the HOC building will have 75-foot buildings. The bowling alley and gas station sites will have 110-foot buildings. And the owner of Park Bethesda will be able to construct two new 110-story buildings behind the existing building.
5. The large parking lot on the Massachusetts Avenue side of Park Bethesda. Townhouses will be constructed next to the existing townhouses in order to protect Westwood Mews and Westbard Mews but larger buildings will be built closer to the existing Park Bethesda building.
6. Manor Care site on Ridgefield Road. The county council voted to permit only townhouses on this site to protect the Springfield neighborhood.
7. There is a one-acre lot on the Washington Episcopal School site that was previously zoned for a senior citizen high rise and this proposed building remains unchanged.

(Continued on page 6)

Paving Work in Neighborhood To Move Ahead

—Bob Cope

River Road is a state road and is scheduled for repaving in 2017. But do not despair. The state of Maryland operates on a fiscal year and the 2017 fiscal year begins July 1, 2016 (ends June 30, 2017). Repaving will begin this summer. Repaving should include the section of River Road stretching from Little Falls to Western Avenue (at least the side that has not already been repaved). At the time of the repaving a left turn lane will be added at Willard Avenue, which will permit traffic traveling from the Beltway to turn left onto Willard Avenue. New stoplights and poles and crosswalks will also be added at the Willard intersection (see story on p. 6).

Meanwhile, many residents have been upset with the patching that the water company and the gas company have done on the Brookdale streets where they have been repairing water pipes and gas pipes. County Councilmember Roger Berliner intends to introduce legislation requiring that all patching be done by the Montgomery Department of Transportation with

reimbursement coming from the utilities. This will put one entity in charge of patching, and that entity should be more responsive to citizen complaints.

Real Estate Report

The blossoms are out and the spring market is blooming. Inventory is low again this year and there is competition for homes, especially in a prime walk-to-everything location.

The following homes are on the market or have settled and sold in the New Year:

5308 Baltimore Avenue is for rent for \$3,300. It is a 2 bedroom, 2 bath colonial.

4620 Harrison Street will be a newly constructed home that is for sale at \$1,899,999.

4611 Merivale Road is on the market for \$1,789,900. It has 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, and 2 half baths.

4514 Cortland Road is under contract. It was listed for \$1,050,000 and is a 4 bedroom, 4 ½ bath colonial.

4614 Harrison Street sold for \$1,075,000. It is a 4 bedroom, 4 bath colonial.

5107 Westport Road sold for \$1,157,500. It is a 4 bedroom, 4 ½ bath colonial.

Phyllis Wiesenfelder, Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc.
301-529-3896 mobile, 301-907-7600 office

Notices/Classifieds:

Mailbox Pickup Times—In the recent past the letters in the mail boxes in our area were emptied in the late afternoon. The notices posted then and still now say that the mail will not be picked up before 10 a.m. In discussing this with a USPS employee we have been told that his routing has been changed. Now he picks up Monday through Saturday between 11 a.m. and noon. If you want your mail to go out on the same day be sure it is in the box by 10 a.m.—Campbell Graueb

Spring/Summer Rental—Wintergreen Resort (sleeps 10). If you are looking to enjoy a hike in the mountains, golf, tennis, spa or spend spring break with family or friends please consider renting our 4 bedroom/3.5 bath townhouse. 45 minutes from Charlottesville, Virginia at 3,800 feet.
<http://www.wintergreenrentals.com/property.php?WGRID=74019>—
Jack Morton, jbmort3@gmail.com

Westbrook to Remain Westland Feeder School in Boundary Study Options

—Steve Snyder

Parents of current and future Westbrook Elementary School students can officially stand down – for now. A Montgomery County Public Schools study that might have shifted Westbrook graduates from Westland Middle School to a new middle school being constructed in Kensington is considering six options, all of which designate that Westbrook graduates continue to feed into Westland.

Early this year, the Montgomery County Public Schools Division of Long Range Planning formed the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Middle Schools Boundary Advisory Committee to make middle school boundary change recommendations to the Board of Education. Currently, six elementary schools, including Westbrook, feed into Westland. Parents of Westbrook students are understandably concerned about any change in the current feeder structure. Not only is Westbrook farther from the new school than any of the other elementary schools, but most Westbrook students can walk or bike to Westland. Conversely, Westbrook students attending the new middle school would be forced to endure a bus ride that likely would take at least 45 minutes in rush hour.

Early in the winter, Bruce Crispell, director of long range planning for Montgomery County Public Schools, developed six options to allocate graduates of the six feeder schools between Westland and the new middle school. These options were publicly announced on February 18, 2016. Fortunately for Westbrook families, all six of these options provide that Westbrook will continue to feed into Westland.

There were several public meetings during the winter in which these options were discussed. Because there is nothing to prevent members of the Advisory Committee from considering options not currently on the table, this matter bears watching. If additional options are to be considered, they were to have been raised at an April 7 meeting.

The Advisory Committee is scheduled to recommend one option to Interim Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools Larry A. Bowers on May 12, 2016. The recommendation will be passed on to incoming Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools Dr. Jack R. Smith, who will take over as superintendent on July 1, 2016. Dr. Smith will make a recommendation to the Board of Education by October 1, 2016. The Board will conduct public hearings and is anticipated to make a final decision in November 2016, which will be implemented in the fall of 2017. The Board is not required to follow the recommendation of the Advisory Committee/superintendent, but considering Westbrook’s place in the available options, let’s hope they do.

For more information, see:
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/boundary.aspx> and
http://gis.mcpsmd.org/boundarystudypdfs/BCCMS2_OptionsPaketEnglish021816.pdf

Brookdale-at-Home... You Won't Want to Miss These!

—*Judy Rivlin*

The Brookdale-at-Home series is a recent Brookdale creation: a series of monthly salon-type programs hosted by Brookdale neighbors for our community about... whatever! Launched in the second half of 2015, and held the third Thursday of each month (mark your calendars now!), the first program was designed to welcome our newest Brookdale residents and to introduce them to the Citizens' Association and the many things that make our neighborhood special.

Since then (and as reported in the January issue of the Brookdale Bugle), Citizens' Association President Dick Podolske hosted a program about the possibility of creating a historic district within Brookdale focused on the Cooper Lightbown homes; Georgetown University Professor Emeritus Mike Hudson hosted and spoke about his expertise: the Middle East, with the discussion including ISIS, the war in Yemen, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and (Ambassador) Richard (Dick) Erdman and his wife Sibyl hosted a program at which Dick spoke about the role of the United Nations in today's world, and why it still matters.

In January, Amy and Paul Rispin hosted a program that included their slides about the lifestyle of the Amish community in southern Maryland. The Rispins not only projected photos and displayed an Amish quilt, but a number of quilters from our area shared their Amish-style quilts and quilting knowledge.

February's program was at the Nicolsons' home, where Dave offered resources, stories and tips from his years pursuing his serious hobby of exploring his own family's genealogy.

The March program took advantage of the date: falling on St. Patrick's Day, there was a beer tasting and discussion at the home of Eric Sanne and Judy Rivlin, led by a family friend who shared the knowledge he has gained from working at the Dacha Beer Garden in Washington, D.C.

These monthly programs have served to strengthen our sense of community, and they have been interesting, fun, and varied! For April, the Grauebs plan to host a program at which Federal District Court Judge Richard Leon, a Brookdale neighbor, will speak about his experiences on the federal bench, and in May, Diane Monash has agreed to host neighbors for a musical soiree when she will present, on the piano, an evening of Tangos.

If you would like to host one of these monthly programs, and/or have a topic to share, please let us know; you may follow up with any of the Board members. Also, the Citizens' Association offers a stipend to the host to help pay for the refreshments integral to the social time before and after the particular talk.

Being hosted in Brookdale homes, these are generally limited to about 20-30 participants, and are filled on a "first come, first served" basis. They are listed on the Brookdale Yahoo list (a/k/a listserv) as well as the Brookdale Facebook page. (Elsewhere in this Bugle you will find directions about how to register for the Brookdale Yahoo list.) If you are not participating in either of these key tools for Brookdale neighborhood communications, you may miss out on more of these Brookdale-at-Home events!

How to Join the Brookdale Yahoo! Group

—*Dave Montgomery*

Join our Yahoo! Group by following these simple instructions:

Go to the website at <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/BrookdaleCitizens>. You should see instructions to join the group, BrookdaleCitizens.

You may already have a Yahoo account; e.g., you might be a member of another Yahoo Group. If so, you can use your existing account and add BrookdaleCitizens.

If you do not have a Yahoo account you will have to open one. Please note that you do not have to use a Yahoo email address; any email address is acceptable. Just complete a "profile" of personal information by following Yahoo's instructions.

Once the account is established, select BrookdaleCitizens as a new group.

Finally, if you need or want help to sign up for our Brookdale Yahoo group, please contact President Dick Podolske, or another Board member. We have willing Brookdale volunteers who will be happy to help you.

If you do not want to submit a profile, you may join a "mailing list" without a Yahoo account. That option means that you will receive the messages sent to the BrookdaleCitizens list but you will not be allowed to post your own message.

Full subscribers may post messages by sending an email to brookdalecitizens@yahoogroups.com.

Since this is a private group an association officer will approve your membership.

A Visit to the South Side: Family Block Party in Brookdale South

—*Jack Morton*

What better way to meet new neighbors, enjoy new company, and explore other parts of your community than attending a block party? The Brookdale Citizens' Association is hosting a spring block party the evening of Saturday, May 14, in Brookdale South. Everyone is invited!

The goal of this new event is to have more interaction between the two sides of the neighborhood. River Road can be a large divide but through the publishing of the neighborhood directory and the successful monthly "Brookdale at Home" events, we are all meeting new folks and learning about how great it is to live in Brookdale.

Bring your favorite dish, appetizer or dessert and adult beverages to the corner of Dover Road and Keokuk Street in the heart of Brookdale South. There will be fun for the kids, conversation for the adults and a good time for all.

Please look out for more information via the Brookdale listserv, the Brookdale Facebook page, and signs throughout the neighborhood advertising the event. We look forward to your attending.

Dr. Arnold Einhorn: From Refugee to Healer

—Shaazka Beyerle

On any given day now, the news is replete with stories of refugees fleeing war and persecution, from Africa to the Middle East. We cannot know their individual ordeals, but we can learn about the past experiences of one such person, Dr. Arnold Einhorn. He and his charming wife, Yvonne, have lived in Brookdale for 36 years.

Now Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics at George Washington and Georgetown Universities, our 92-year-old neighbor escaped the Holocaust and joined the Jewish-French underground resistance during World War II. While this short profile cannot do justice to all that he has lived through and accomplished in the ensuing years, it's a glimpse into a living history of human tragedy and survival.

Hailing from Antwerp, Belgium, Arnold, his parents, three sisters and brother fled to Paris, France in May 1940, ahead of the Nazi invasion of their country. After a ghastly internment in a football stadium, followed by a train ride packed with refugees, they were assigned by French authorities to the tiny village of Saint-Julien-du-Gua in Ardèche. The family moved on to the town of Privas and in September that year, all Jews there were forcibly sent to Agde, an internment camp west of Montpellier for "undesirable foreigners."

In March 1941, during a surprise inspection, the Prefect (senior administrator) of the Hérault Département (locality) was enraged by the inhumane conditions. He closed it down and decreed that the refugees be moved to the Rivesaltes camp in the Pyrenees. Tragically, almost all the inmates were soon deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Arnold's oldest sister, who was working in the office of the camp's captain, desperately tried to save the family with the help of Camille Ernst, the vice prefect of Herault. He intervened to save hundreds of Jews, and has been recognized as one of the "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Remembrance Center. Ernst assigned the Einhorns to "supervised residence" in a suburb of Montpellier, where several neighbors were petty criminals on parole, who also looked out for them. "The parolees often alerted us when the French fascist militia were about to round up Jews," explained Arnold.

On Nov. 11, 1942, the day the Nazis occupied all of France, Arnold joined the Organisation Juive de Combat (OJC), the newly created Jewish underground wing of the French Resistance. The 19 year-old was sent to Grenoble to launch a new unit. He created false identification documents for Jews and helped smuggle entire families to relative safety in Nice and the Alps.

In the summer of 1943, someone informed on him to the French Gestapo. Toto, the code name for Arnold's "boss" in the resistance, called him to his hideout, a room above a brothel. "It was about the safest place around," he noted dryly. Toto had a difficult new mission for Arnold. "We were six Jews and five non-Jews. We were directed to cross treacherous Pyrenees mountains into Spain." Their assignment was to test the viability of a new pass road for Jews and the trustworthiness of a smuggler. The group succeeded only to be caught by the Spanish



authorities. Arnold secured his release through various consulates, caught a Portuguese ship to the Middle East, and enlisted in the British Royal Army Service Corps in Haifa. He went on to serve for three years in Palestine, Italy, Egypt, France, Holland and Belgium.

Meanwhile, in France, after the Nazis invaded the southern territories and the situation in Grenoble became unsafe, his parents, younger sister and brother fled to neutral Switzerland, only to be detained again. "They were put in camps and our father was a slave worker until the end of the war," Arnold remarked. The Einhorn family escaped the Holocaust, but like

many refugees, its members subsequently scattered around the world. Nonetheless, they remained close-knit across the miles.

After the war Arnold returned to France, determined to become a doctor. In 1946 he enrolled in the René Descartes School of Medicine at the University of Paris, Sorbonne. It was in Paris that he met Yvonne, the young beauty who became his wife. They've been married for what he calls a 61-year honeymoon. In 1954 they immigrated to New York City. They encountered many difficulties, but with fierce determination, resilience and hope, they built a new life. Arnold spent 20 years in the South Bronx at two hospitals, and as faculty at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Professor of Pediatrics.

In 1978 he, Yvonne, and their two daughters moved to Brookdale when he joined the George Washington School of Medicine, as chairman of pediatric medicine and program director at the Children's National Medical Center. He has devoted his life to the care and treatment of children, teaching medicine, and training over 1,000 pediatricians in the U.S. and abroad. Arnold has touched the lives of thousands, including many of his neighbors here in Brookdale.

Pepco Work Goes On

—Bill McCloskey

Pepco continues to dig up streets as part of the upgrade to its Harrison Street substation along Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., as the traffic disruption moves further from Brookdale. Work on Wisconsin that will go as far as Van Ness Street is scheduled for completion in June. Then Van Ness will be dug up from October through January.

Pepco will be back on the streets bordering our community starting in August when installation of cable and splicing -- lasting about a month -- on Western Avenue and Jenifer Street takes place. That work will move to Wisconsin from September until November.

When replacement of the roughly 75-year-old substation is complete by June 2018, Pepco promises an improvement in reliability and capacity to met the growing electric needs of the Friendship Heights area.

Additional details and a map showing the work areas are available on the Internet at www.bit.ly/1RLUuzf. The URL is case sensitive.

GEICO Fence Update

—Bob Banach

In the last issue of the Brookdale Bugle, we noted that GEICO will be making additional improvements to the wood fence that borders the neighborhood. We continue to work with GEICO to understand the perspective of the neighbors along the fence and reach a resolution that is acceptable to everyone. Several neighbors raised their concerns with the county, which met with GEICO about its new metal fence. Although the county had no issues with the fence as installed, the county did note that GEICO obtained an incorrect permit for the installation and asked GEICO to go through the steps of obtaining the correct permit and paying the appropriate permit fee. GEICO is in the process of obtaining the appropriate permit and further work on the wood fence will not continue until that process is complete.

The basis for our discussions with GEICO is a 1967 Agreement between the neighbors, the neighborhood association and GEICO. Here are the planned next steps:

1. The wood fence will receive additional repair work this spring to replace areas where there is graffiti and where the wood is decaying.
2. After walking the fence with us, GEICO understood that some of the repair work done last fall was sub-par and will clean that up when the additional work is scheduled.
3. We asked GEICO to erect a taller wooden fence so neighbors would not have to see its newly installed and taller metal fence, but GEICO declined. And, as noted previously, it also declined to add a gate on Saratoga, since its goal is to limit the ways across its property to enhance security.
4. Moving forward, GEICO will review the fence at least annually (likely in the spring) to ensure that it is well maintained.
5. We will work with GEICO later in the spring, once trees/shrubs start to bloom, to ensure that other parts of the 1967 agreement provisions are met.
6. The agreement stipulates that all cars parked in GEICO's Willard Avenue lot must be at least 25 feet from the property line, which extends beyond the fence. We asked GEICO to review its property line records and ensure that was the case, and to inform us of its findings. Additionally, several Brookdale Board members measured the distance in several spots along the fence and determined GEICO appears to be in compliance with this provision. We expect GEICO to complete its review this spring.

Long-term residents will tell you that GEICO was not a good neighbor for many years when they owned more than 30 homes in the neighborhood and were in the process of creating a development plan for its property. Brookdale and other neighborhood associations hired lawyers to represent us in that process and win concessions to protect the character of our neighborhood and for GEICO to divest itself of most of the homes (which it did, except for most of the houses abutting its property). We re-endorsed this plan a few years ago at GEICO's request so it could receive a development extension as a new plan would likely be significantly different given the county's current view of development.

For newer residents, we thought it would be a good idea to review Brookdale's relationship with GEICO in recent years. In

most instances, the relationship has been quite cooperative. For example, after alerting GEICO to a particular concern, GEICO:

1. Installed motion sensor lights along its property near the back of Brookdale Park to limit inappropriate late-night congregating, and in a way that did not bother the adjoining homes.
2. Installed a high-powered night-vision camera trained on its property perimeter along Western Avenue to help track any criminal activity.
3. Installed a new brighter and highly protected light in the smoking hut behind its building after it was repeatedly broken by vandals making the path extremely dark.
4. Re-illuminated the company sign along Western Avenue (until about 9:30 p.m.) each evening to improve Western Avenue sidewalk lighting (we are continuing to work with GEICO on this issue as there appears to be some inconsistency on when the light turns off).
5. Asked its snow removal team to lower the volume on the plow back-up warning signal--it can't be turned off since it is a law to have the sound, but GEICO was happy to try and accommodate our request when some neighbors complained about the early morning noise.

We have received this attention despite GEICO's size (GEICO is one of Montgomery County's largest employers with more than 3,000 employees and one of the largest insurers in the country).

Finally, note that GEICO asks that if any of us notice suspicious activity on its property, please report it to its security team at: 301-986-2100.

Trees: Some have noted that the tree canopy has decreased between GEICO and Brookdale. Older trees are dying off and they are not being replaced with new trees. Unfortunately, the only legal agreements made with GEICO about the tree canopy concern the wood fence area from Saratoga to Willard Avenue in the 1967 Agreement and the redevelopment proposal. Next steps related to the 1967 Agreement are noted above; and the redevelopment agreement only covers tree removal prior to GEICO's moving forward with the redevelopment. Since GEICO has no immediate plans to redevelop its property, we are trying to reopen this issue to restore what has previously existed along the full length of its property. The matter remains in the discussion stage, with no resolution yet.

Snow removal: During the winter storm, several residents complained about GEICO's snow removal from sidewalks on Willard Avenue, while others noted that it was likely due to the county plows pushing the snow from the road onto the sidewalks. Upon investigation, we learned that the problem was attributable to the county plows. While the county apologized to GEICO, it did not send anyone out to fix the problem. GEICO called in its snow removal team to clean the sidewalks again. GEICO will monitor this more closely in future snowstorms.

Bob Banach is the Brookdale Citizens' Association liaison with GEICO.

(President's Report, from page 1)

GEICO Fence. We reported in the last Bugle that an amicable solution had been reached with GEICO under which they agreed to stop moving forward on a proposed wrought-iron fence and that they would reinforce the existing fence on the parking lot side to prevent individuals from breaking through. Unfortunately this is not what has happened, as GEICO instead has constructed a separate wrought-iron fence with spikes facing towards Brookdale that many residents find objectionable. Please see a separate article (p. 5) on the state of our current discussions with GEICO to address this and other issues.

Annual Meeting on May 4. The annual meeting of the Brookdale Citizens Association will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on May 4 at the Wisconsin Place Community Center. From 6:30-7, you will be able to pay your annual dues (of \$30: our fiscal year begins June 1), enjoy a glass of wine and cookies, and visit with neighbors. The business meeting will begin at 7. You can expect to be updated on Brookdale news (including the likely impact of the Westbard Sector Plan, which has now been finalized and approved), select your Citizens' Association officers for the next year, and raise new issues of concern. We will also hear from Officer Janney of the Montgomery County Police Department, who will address our group about safety issues important to Brookdale. All Brookdale residents are encouraged to attend!

(Westbard, from page 1)

8. Library. Will stay the way it is. No senior housing on this site. American Plant and The Roofing Center should stay the way they are for now.

But all systems are go on Westbard Avenue. Construction should begin next year. No word yet on whether Giant will remain open during construction. Chevy Chase Land Company tried to keep the Giant open on the Chevy Chase Center in Friendship Heights but that did not happen. The rumor at that time was that the general liability insurance company got nervous when they heard about the cranes and bulldozers.

School impact. Note that all of the new proposed construction will take place in the Whitman cluster. But B-CC's turn is coming as we now shift our focus to the Bethesda Sector Plan, which should come to the county council this fall. Thirty-story high rises in Bethesda will certainly generate additional students for the B-CC cluster.

Personal Note: I believe Roger Berliner deserves a lot of credit for cutting the number of proposed new residents in Westbard by 50 percent. Keep in mind Roger is only one vote on the council, yet this is the first time I have seen any Planning Board Draft Plan reduced by half. Many residents have expressed displeasure at this plan. But displeasure does not necessarily translate into votes at the county council.

Transitions

On Feb. 26, Kaspar Hunkeler, the last surviving child of the late Josef and Elisabeth Hunkeler of Beromünster, Switzerland, passed away peacefully at the age of 93. He was a longtime resident of Brookdale who had lived on Sherrill Avenue since 1958.

Kaspar grew up on a farm with seven brothers and sisters. In 1951, he emigrated from Switzerland to work at the Swiss Embassy in Washington D.C., where he was employed for the next 35 years. One of his greatest loves was Swiss folklore. He was an accomplished flag swinger and a founding member of the Swiss Folklore Group of Washington D.C. One of his most cherished memories was performing for then President Jimmy Carter in 1979.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 63 years, Maria, and their children – Markus, Teddy, Roby, and Tina – along with their spouses, 10 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. He will be dearly missed by all. A memorial service will be celebrated at the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, Maryland.

River Road Work Continues

—Bill McCloskey

The Maryland State Highway Administration work to widen River Road at Willard Avenue/Greenway Drive continues apace and apparently on schedule. The state has issued no updates on the project since late February (<http://1.usa.gov/1UOF4Zo>). As work progresses, updates will be posted to the same link.

One of the last stages of the project will be the opening of a new left turn lane onto Willard from inbound (toward D.C.) River, designed to ease congestion at the intersection, which served 17,000 vehicles daily. Sidewalk ramps are being (and in some cases have been) added to conform with the Americans With Disabilities Act. When the work is complete – still estimated as late fall this year – audible and countdown displays will be installed on the traffic lights at the intersection. The lights will be upgraded with brighter LED bulbs.

The entire River roadway will be resurfaced from Ventnor Road to Baltimore Avenue. In addition to the mid-day lane closures, one lane of River may be closed overnight Sundays through Thursday from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. during the few nights of repaving.

A more complete resurfacing of River Road from the Beltway to Western Avenue is also on the books for 2016. The project was to be advertised on March 29 with the bid opening on May 5 with a successful bidder named as early as July 21 with work beginning later in the summer.

The project engineer is Mark McCullough, reachable at mmccullough@sha.state.md.us or 240-505-1757.

The Brookdale Bugle is a publication of the Brookdale Citizens' Association. It comes out three times a year – January, April, and September.
Editor Deborah Kalb
Layout & Photo Editor Steve Langer
Visit Brookdale online at <http://www.brookdalenews.org/>
The deadline to submit articles, notices, and ads for the September 2016 issue of the Brookdale Bugle is 9 p.m. August 15. Don't delay. Be early.