

# Brookdale *bugle*

ESTABLISHED 1938

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Dick Podolske

Dear Brookdale Residents,

Since our last Bugle issued in April, our community continues to be active on several fronts. The following is a brief summary:

### Traffic Safety in Brookdale

Traffic safety was a key issue mentioned during our annual meeting. Responding to this concern, we have taken a number of steps to address the problem. Led by the initiative of Heather Paul, we have installed 12 signs at various locations in the neighborhood indicating "SLOW / CHILDREN AT PLAY".

We also have approached Montgomery County requesting: 1) the installation of stop signs in 3 locations within the neighborhood; 2) a formal pedestrian crossing at Willard Avenue at the entrance to the Willard Avenue Park; and 3) an increased River Road pedestrian crossing time at the intersection with Willard Avenue.

We have also approached the DC Department of Transportation requesting a marked pedestrian crossing at Western Avenue at the entrance to GEICO where traffic signals already exist. We will be monitoring these requests and report back to the community once we have received definitive responses to these requests. Furthermore, we will watch for an improved traffic signal timing at the intersection of Western Avenue and River Road in response to concerns we have raised. The DC Department of Transportation will be reassessing the timing at this location in the Fall.

### Brookdale Events

We continue to have frequent Brookdale-at-Home evenings and other events. Here are the past and future gatherings since the issuance of our last Bugle in April:

- The Annual Meeting was held on May 3 at the Wisconsin Place Community Recreation Center. Nolan Rodman of Rodman's spoke about the wines and cheeses that he generously supplied at the meeting.
- The Spring Block Party was organized by Jack Morton and held in Brookdale South.
- Our Fourth of July celebration and parade led by Glen Echo Fire Department and organized by Cary

Devoretz with Mike Oliwa at the grill. A wonderful event enjoyed by all.

- Marie Moylan and David Lewis spoke about their year-long European adventure on July 19.
- A Vietnam presentation on August 23 was presented by Larry Broadwell, Bill McCloskey, Glenn Skaggs, and Richard Podolske and hosted by Glenn and Elsa Skaggs.
- A Fort Bayard lecture presented by National Park Service on August 31 (not officially a Brookdale event).
- A Brookdale Back-to-School celebration for families with K-5 elementary students in public and private schools to network was held in Brookdale Park on September 3.
- The Fall Street Party, originally scheduled for September 8, was postponed due to inclement weather. It was held September 15 and organized by Marie Moylan and David Lewis.
- Progressive Art Walk on November 3 will be organized by Sibyl Erdman and Heather Paul. Please see article below and sign up if you're an artist.

While we have a full program of events scheduled for this Fall, we continue to seek volunteers to present and/or host the speakers in the near future. If you are interested in speaking to our community or in hosting speakers, we ask that you contact a BCA Board member. We have a very rich array of accomplished people in our neighborhood and we would love to hear about your lives and activities.

### Other Developments Affecting Brookdale

We continue to monitor developments that impact Brookdale. These include: (a) crime, especially breaking into cars, (b) Montgomery County Bikeway plans, (c) GEICO parking lot lighting, (d) PEPCO street lighting, (d) Willard Avenue Park development plans, and (e) developer's proposals for property adjacent to the cemetery on Murray Road. We will provide information to the community when tangible information becomes available.

## USE OUR BROOKDALE WEBSITE TO STAY IN THE KNOW!

by Heather Paul

We wanted to remind you that [www.brookdalecitizens.org](http://www.brookdalecitizens.org) is a great community resource. You can keep up on all upcoming Brookdale events, Bugle newsletters, development issues, Brookdale history, and other matters of interest. The Brookdale Directory form for updating your contact information can also be downloaded from the website. You can pay dues too!!

## BROOKDALE'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

Although Adrienne Nassau moved to Brookdale relatively recently, she is a long-time resident of Bethesda/Chevy Chase as she and her late husband Steve raised their three children here. Adrienne is a city planner by profession and had a career at the World Bank as a project manager and financial analyst. Upon retirement, she was elected the president of the 7000 member World Bank Retirees Association. After retiring from this position, she took up the cello, which has become a passion of hers. She currently serves our community as our representative to GEICO.

## PLEASE SUPPORT THE BROOKDALE CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION!

by Heather Paul

Once again, thanks to all of you for supporting our terrific community. We are now at 35% of Brookdale residents who have paid 2018 dues. Our goal is to have at least 60% support by the end of the year. In this newsletter you will find an addressed dues envelope for a check—OR you can pay on-line at [www.brookdalecitizens.org](http://www.brookdalecitizens.org)

As Dick Podolske's President Report makes clear, we are doing our best to serve Brookdale interests. Most recently, we have focused on traffic safety measures. New signs and work with Montgomery County on stop signs at intersections are a few of our initiatives. And of course our block parties, holiday celebrations and Brookdale-at-Home events continue throughout the year. Please let us know if there are additional issues that we should consider. Meanwhile, have a very happy and safe Fall!



Photo by Dick Podolske

## KEEPING BROOKDALE SAFE

by Heather Paul

As we approach another Fall, Brookdale is buzzing with pedestrian commuters and dozens of children running for and from school buses, biking and playing together outside after school.

Many residents, however, have been concerned about cars racing through the neighborhood, more interested in avoiding an intersection light than watching for children and other walkers.

One simple attempt to get drivers to slow down has been our installation of 12 new traffic signs that read: "SLOW / CHILDREN AT PLAY" at key areas that have been identified by neighbors as high risk areas. We will continue to monitor speeding cars and would appreciate your further observations.

## Brookdale bugle

Editor Sibyl Erdman  
Layout & Photo Editor Jim Hicks

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

Visit Brookdale online at [www.brookdalecitizens.org](http://www.brookdalecitizens.org). The deadline to submit articles, notices, and ads for the January 2019 issue of the Brookdale Bugle is 9 p.m. on January 2.

# SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

by Jack Morton, VP Brookdale South

Crime and traffic are two areas of concern to Brookdale neighbors and we often see messages about neighborhood crime, car break-ins, and stolen bicycles on the Brookdale and Westbrook listserves, especially in summer months. While we enjoy the perks of living next to the District, it comes with its fair share of challenges.

We have more Uber drivers, delivery vehicles, construction vehicles, and door to door community activists and salesman making their way around Brookdale. With this uptick in foot and car traffic it is more important than ever to know who is in the neighborhood and to report suspicious activity. There are active groups who case the area looking for a good opportunity.

We all need to play an active role in keeping our community safe and working together to deter crime. For starters please call the police immediately if you see anything suspicious occurring.

The more often we report activity to the police, the more effective and active they will be in protecting us. Apart from just calling, let's be precise in our reporting and include the following:

- whom or what you saw (please include sex, age, and race);
- when you saw it;
- where it occurred; and
- why it's suspicious.

**Non-emergency, call 301-279-8000. If there is an emergency, call 9-1-1.**

Apart from being aware, keeping in touch with your neighbors, and calling the police, we can all take personal steps to protect our home and property. The Montgomery County Police Website has a number of good resources and tips. Most are common sense.

## Vehicles and Bikes:

In terms of your car, please lock your car doors and remove all valuables from your vehicle. Secure your personal property

out of sight in the glove compartment, console, or trunk. Park your vehicle in your garage if you have one or in a well-lit spot on the street. Do not leave your bicycles, skate boards, scooters unattended or they will walk.

## Home:

Please leave all exterior lights on all night to enhance community lighting, stop newspaper deliveries while on vacation, and alert neighbors that you will be away so they can pick up delivered packages and keep an eye on things. Please keep your doors locked, windows closed and alarms on when you are not present or are outside. Also keep jewelry and other valuables out of plain site.

You should also consider having a local officer conduct a home safety assessment. It is free, takes just 30 minutes or less and provides peace of mind. The officer will review your lighting, doors, windows, locks, and provide helpful suggestions. I had this done a few years back and the officer said that a good thief is in and out of the home in less than five minutes. I now have several door clubs for our basement for and patio doors. anything you can do to deter a crime and make the criminal move on is beneficial.

A vibrant and safe community is one where neighbors look out for each other, have a good rapport with local police, and do their part. In the coming months the Brookdale Citizens Association will be inviting a Montgomery County Police Liaison to meet with the community.

## Montgomery County Police Residential Burglary Prevention also suggest:

- Make sure you have your house number close to the front doors of your house. Dark numbers on light trim are easiest to read. During an emergency, this could save precious moments.
- Install a peep hole in your exterior doors if you do not have glass around the door. NEVER open the door to a stranger. Speak through the closed door. Call 911 if you are suspicious of a person.
- Add deadbolt locks to exterior doors, particularly those with glass near the doorknob. Remove the key from the lock.



Photo by Katherine Chen

## A RISING START IN THE PARK!

by Heather Paul

Brookdale families with elementary schoolers came together on Labor Day morning for a Back-To-School celebration. Parents shared notes over coffee and kids grabbed water, bikes, and soccer balls. Our goal was achieved: to strengthen connections between families in the neighborhood, whether kids jumped on the Westbrook school bus or headed off to a variety of private schools. As everyone scattered by noon, there was no question that Brookdale was a place like Lake Wobegon "where all the women are strong, all the men are good looking, and all the children are above average."!!

# WHAT IS A “VISTA”?

by Jack Morton

I am Jack Morton, a newly sworn in AmeriCorpsVISTA! VISTA stands for Volunteers in Service to America. Perhaps you may be familiar with the program.

In my role as a VISTA I will be serving a year of national service in support of Montgomery County education programs. Think of me as part of a large family of community advocates, a domestic Peace Corps of sorts, who will fan out across America to support programs that alleviate poverty and open hearts and minds.

I will not be directly tutoring, teaching children to swim, or leading a discussion on financial literacy. What I will be doing is building capacity so community organizations can better serve and grow. This may involve recruiting volunteers, writing grant proposals, evaluating, forging new community partnerships, and much more.

In my initial National Orientation Program in Philadelphia, I joined over 130 passionate, smart, and excited folks from every background and town who will be serving in the mid-Atlantic region. Many were at least 25 years younger than me, and spoke, dressed, and at times thought differently. It

was all good though. During my many hours of facilitated break outs, one on one, and group exercises. I took away several main thoughts that may guide me this year. This is exhausting (just kidding).

- We all have much more in common than we think;
- Poverty comes in many forms and faces;
- To be taken seriously one must be authentic yet humble.

To be honest, I am nervous as I begin my year of listening, learning, and doing. Poverty is so daunting and how can Jack really make some inroads. My plan is to take a kind, open-minded, and patient approach as I support, interact with, and engage with my fellow Montgomery County residents, many of whom may have their own questions about me. Each of us has something to give and much to learn but change and acceptance can be difficult at times.

I am incredibly excited and humbled by the journey ahead of me. I will report back in a year on my experiences and progress.

# SHARED EXPERIENCES OF THE VIETNAM WAR

by Adrienne Nassau

Elsa and Glenn Skaggs hosted a well-attended Brookdale-at-Home on August 23. Four Brookdale residents who participated in the war spoke at the event. Larry Broadwell was a Captain in the Marines during 1969-70, stationed in various locales in the northern part of South Vietnam. He received a bronze star for valor. His troops were engaging with the enemy, and one of his chief concerns was to lose as few men as possible. Bill McCloskey was a reporter with the First Signal Corps, traveling the country and writing stories to win the hearts and minds of the troops in support of the war effort. Glenn Skaggs served as a Naval intelligence officer at the Pentagon during the War. And Richard Podolske, who describes himself as a “draft dodger”, was an engineer working for a private contractor in Vietnam during 1966-67. He supervised dredging operations in three locations in Vietnam. He presented slides that depicted his experiences in the war.

Although they had vastly different assignments in various parts of the country, as well as in Washington, some common themes emerged from the discussion. First, they were upset that the Armed Forces of South Vietnam were not doing their job, leaving the US to fight the war on their



Viet Nam - 1967

Photo by Dick Podolske

behalf. Second, they questioned the “domino” theory on which the war was based. This theory hypothesized that Vietnam would fall into the hands of Communist China, and all of Southeast Asia would follow suit. This theory ignored hundreds of years of animosity that Vietnamese had for China. Third, all wanted to do their job well and come home as soon as possible.

The War became intensely unpopular in the US and returning soldiers were not welcomed warmly. There is an excellent multi-part documentary on the Vietnam War by Ken Burns that was produced by PBS that should be required viewing for all.



Painting by Willem Bier



Painting by Wendy Smith

## THE ARTSY SIDE OF BROOKDALE ON SHOW!

We are now organizing our stroll thru Artsy Brookdale on Saturday, November 3rd from 3-5:30pm. Brookdale-at-Home Events continue to reveal some of our professional and intellectual interests. And now we want to tap another side of the Brookdale character: a passion for the visual arts either through the eyes of a studio artist or craftsman. With a glass of wine in hand, we can chat with the artist and perhaps get inspired ourselves, whether it's painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, ceramics, or another craft.

If you are interested, please consider joining our tour to show off your stuff! We can also bring some of YOUR work to a home of someone who is on the tour. If you want to sign up or have questions, please contact Sibyl at 301-652-8626 or email [snerdman@mac.com](mailto:snerdman@mac.com). Please let us know by Friday, October 19.



The shiny new fence surrounding Boundary Marker NW #6.

Photo by Dick Podolske

## FORT BAYARD'S HISTORY LESSON

*by Amy Rispin*

Did you know that Fort Bayard at the District of Columbia boundary with Brookdale, saw action during the Civil War? Park Ranger Steve Phan of the National Park Service Department of Civil War Defenses of Washington accompanied by a Civil War enactor in Union uniform, described the fort's role as one of 68 forts erected to defend the national capitol. Fort Bayard saw action in July 1864 as part of General Jubal Early's raid when troops marched toward Fort Stevens on the way to attacking the Federal City. He sent General John McCausland toward Forts Reno and Bayard to test defenses in that direction. Fort Bayard's construction on a high soapstone knob gave it a commanding view of the countryside and gave its heavy artillery a clear range of fire. Traces of the cannon mounts and the moat around the fort are still visible.

The audience for the presentation included three local historians and a member of the historic Shoemaker family, which had a role in building Fort Bayard. The event was attended by 61 people from surrounding neighborhoods.

# WINTER SIDEWALK SAFETY

by Susan Raetzman

When winter brings snow and other cold weather elements to Brookdale, the results can be beautiful to look at and fun to play in yet treacherous for residents on foot. Sidewalks covered with ice, accumulated snow, and melted snow that has refrozen as uneven surfaces put pedestrians at risk of bruises, broken bones, and head injuries due to falling. Sometimes, these sidewalk conditions force residents to walk along River Road and Western Avenue where the surface is clear but they are sharing the busy road with cars, trucks, and buses. School kids, older adults, workers going to Friendship Heights or catching buses, your neighbors, and even your own family members can be affected by snowy and icy sidewalks. But it's not supposed to be this way.

In 2015, Montgomery County launched its "Safe Sidewalks" campaign to remind residents that clearing their sidewalks of snow and ice was not only the right thing to do. . . it is the law.

Montgomery County residents in Brookdale are responsible for removing snow and ice on any walkway on or adjacent to property they own, lease or manage—including any sidewalks in the public right-of-way—within 24 hours after the end of the precipitation that caused the condition (i.e., after the snow stops falling). Residents on corner lots must clear sidewalks both in front of and to the side of their homes. County Code Section 49-17 requires property owners to provide a pathway wide enough for safe pedestrian and wheelchair use, which is typically 36 inches. The requirement to clear snow and ice applies whether the resident is in town or not.

Residents must also keep entrances and driveways clear. Because snow plows can block driveways with snow, the County recommends trying to wait to shovel the end of driveways until snow plows have made one pass. And to reduce the amount of snow that plows may re-deposit across driveway entrances, stand facing the street when shoveling and shovel snow to the right into the yard, not into the street. In the event that snow or ice is redeposited by a plow on a previously-cleared walkway, the area must be cleared again within 24 hours.

Senior citizens and individuals with a disability are not exempted from this law. Brookdale residents can assist elderly or vulnerable people who live nearby, especially those who live alone, by checking on them during storms and clearing their sidewalks.

Not adhering to the snow removal requirement is a class C violation that carries a \$50 fine. Call 311 or 240-777-0311 to report the exact address of an un-shoveled sidewalk. Due to property ownership verification procedures, a service request cannot be created online. The County Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Code Enforcement Section is authorized to enforce this Section.

So, this winter, keep public sidewalks in Brookdale clear for yourself and others. It can be a good business for kids in the family. If it helps, take comfort in knowing that the snow and ice removal requirement could be more stringent. For example, in the municipality of Takoma Park, snow and ice must be removed from sidewalks by 7 p.m. or four daylight hours after nighttime snow. Frederick and Falls Church residents have only 12 hours to shovel walkways after snowfall stops.



Neighbors celebrating Spring at Brookdale's Block Party in June.

Photo by Dick Podolske

## BROOKDALE'S SPRING BLOCK PARTY

by Jack Morton

On June 9 Jack Morton, VP Brookdale South and neighbors from Dover Court and Dover Road held the 3rd annual Brookdale Spring Block Party. Over 70 neighbors joined for fried chicken, side dishes, snacks, desserts, lemonade, and adult beverages.

The forecast had called for rain and fortunately rain did not arrive until after the 8:30 pm curtain call. It was wonderful evening of food, fun, and camaraderie.



All lined up and ready to chase the firetruck!

Photo by Dick Podolske

## BROOKDALE'S JULY FOURTH CELEBRATION

by Cary Devorsetz

'Twas a hot and muggy 4th, Bugle readers, but a neighborhood needed to celebrate our nation's b'day. And celebrate we did: we ate, we drank a ton (well, a ton of lemonade) and we paraded behind the Glen Echo Fire Department with celebratory, patriotic regalia attached to various neighborhood kid-operated wheeled vehicles. Many also played one of several outdoor games, including badminton and cornhole, and the smart attendees made sure to spritz ourselves with

plenty of sunscreen and bug spray. Thanks much to the Eternal Grillmaster Michael Oliwa and his family for their generous time and food donations, as well as Heather Paul (Brookdale Treasurer and event setter-upper), Tom Husted (signage), Andrew Akman (outdoor games putter-together) and Richard Podolske (Brookdale's chief executive) for their help as well.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL BROOKDALE GRADUATES!

Dover Court resident and BCC alum **Ella Grove** is attending Chapman University in Orange, CA.

The Langers of Dalton Road have two graduations! **Naomi Langer** graduated from Oberlin College with a degree in creative writing and is working as a photographer in Cleveland. **Nadia Langer** graduated from the Washington Waldorf School and is now at Goucher College.

**Aliya Lateef-Vaksvik** from Andover Road is at the University of British Columbia. She graduated from BCC this past spring.

**Isabel Rose**, daughter of Mark Rose and Alison Gammie of Dover Court, graduated magna cum laude from Bryn Mawr College this past June. She is working as a legal assistant in D.C. for a firm specializing in immigration law.

**Eli Sturm** of Brookdale Road is now at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill after graduating from BCC this spring.

**James Turnham**, who lives on Overbrook Road and is a 2018 BCC graduate, is presently at the University of Vermont in Burlington.

# REAL ESTATE REPORT: BROOKDALE/WOHLSHIRE/ORCHARDALE

by Tamar Nicolson

The information below is for April 17 - September 10, 2018

Address	Rented/ Sold/ Active	List Price/ Sold Price/ Rental Rate	BR	FB	HB	Acres	Age	DOM
5303 Baltimore Ave	Rented	\$4500/\$4500	3	3	1	.124	71	45
4625 River Rd	Rented	\$3500/\$3500	2	2	1	.184	80	25
5013 Westport Rd	Rented	\$4550/\$4550	5	3	1	.186	55	110
5017 Westport Rd	Rented	\$5900/\$5500	5	2	2	.193	52	56

Information provided by, Tamar Y. Nicolson, a Real Estate Agent with Keller Williams Capital Properties. If you have any further questions about this information, please feel free to contact Tamar Y. Nicolson at 240-350-4060. Tamar has lived in the neighborhood since 1998, and lives with her family on Merivale Road.

**Calling all Real Estate Agents** residing in Brookdale, Wohlshire or Orchardale! The Brookdale Bugle wants to support YOU! We would like to give all Real Estate Agents, who are residents of the Brookdale Community, the opportunity to share information about the Real Estate market and how it relates to our neighborhood in particular. If you would like to be part of this rotation (each Bugle a different agent will share the info), please reach out to Sibyl Erdman at [snrdman@mac.com](mailto:snrdman@mac.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Local Home Repair Services

As summer comes to an end, so does the escape from things that need to be done around the house. Jesse Zhang at 4502 Cortland Road is available to offer free consultations and trustworthy services for even the smallest of projects including general oversight of homes when neighbors are away for long stretches. Neighborhood references can be provided. Contact: [jczhangchina@yahoo.com](mailto:jczhangchina@yahoo.com) or 202-853-4519.

### Babysitter, Dog Walker, Plant Waterer Available

My name is Maddy Witten. I am a 14 year-old high school freshman. If you are looking for a reliable and conscientious babysitter, dog walker, or plant waterer, please contact me. My email address is [maddylwit@gmail.com](mailto:maddylwit@gmail.com).

Beatrice Bos, a 7th grader at Westland, has had dog walking/dog sitting experience, and has a small garden, so

plant-sitting is not a problem. She has never babysat before, but she does have many younger cousins and a younger brother and is quite experienced with kids. She can be reached at [marziaravazzini@yahoo.com](mailto:marziaravazzini@yahoo.com).

James Friebert, presently at BCC, would love to walk your dog, water plants, babysit etc. He has excellent references. Telephone: 425-351-7165.

### Web Master Available

Gabe Seiden, of Connect4Consulting, LLC and the creator of the Brookdale website, has an expertise in building nonprofit sites and can help with any efforts to create or improve an online brand. He can be reached at [Gabe@connect4consulting.com](mailto:Gabe@connect4consulting.com) or 202-236-2968.

## TRANSITIONS

Brian Lessans and his fiancé Alexis Miller, along with their two dogs Harper and Koda, have recently traded in the beaches of Delray Beach, Florida for the excitement of Bethesda. Brian grew up in the region and attended Walter Johnson High School. They look forward to meeting new folks and becoming part of the community. They are living at 4600 Overbrook.

We are delighted to welcome Suri and Matt Pacinelli to their newly renovated home at 4613 Harrison Street. Their daughters, Natalia (8) and Victoria (4) look forward to meeting other children in the Brookdale community. Victoria is presently in preschool in DC but will be heading to kindergarten at Westbrook next year.