

Brookdale *bugle*

ESTABLISHED 1938

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Dick Podolske

Dear Brookdale Residents,
 Since the issuance of our last *Bugle* in September, our community continues to be active on several fronts. The following is a brief summary.

New Brookdale Directory

We hope you are pleased with the new and substantially updated Brookdale Directory that has been delivered to the entire Brookdale community of about 400 homes and approximately 1000 residents. This was accomplished due to the very exacting and time consuming work by Amy and Paul Rispin in assembling the documentation, and Michael Oliwa in formatting and printing the Directory, as well as contributions from our vice presidents and other residents. This directory has been printed in a somewhat larger font for easier reading,

Brookdale Website

If you haven't had a look at the upgraded Brookdale website, we highly recommend you do so. It has a lot of valuable information about our community. The website is best viewed on a computer screen rather than a cell phone. Since this is a new year, it is also the start of our new dues year. A very easy way to pay the \$30 Brookdale dues is by going to the dues tab on this website where you can use your credit card or pay pal. See also Heather Paul's article on Brookdale dues.

Recent Brookdale Events

We continue to have Brookdale events on at least a monthly basis. Since the last Bugle issue in September the following Brookdale gatherings have been held:

- Halloween party October 31 organized by Tamar Nicolson (see separate article by Tamar). The winners of our Halloween decoration contest were Tom Sinks and Kelley Scanton at 4611 Merivale Road. Honorable Mention went to Kari Swenson and Kenny Foster at 4701 Overbrook Road, Jean and Donald Houghton at 5310 Baltimore Road, and Jennifer and Rob Keller at 5305 Saratoga.

- Brookdale Art Walk Sunday November 4 organized by Sibyl Erdman and Heather Paul with art work on display in five Brookdale homes.
- A December 9 Holiday Party hosted by Bill Grigg where Deborah Kalb presented her new children's book entitled *John Adams & the Magic Bobblehead*.
- A Meet and Greet event at the Chatter Restaurant on January 17.

Future Brookdale Events

We are planning a number of Brookdale events in the early months of the new year including the following:

- February 20 – Emiliano Bos will speak about reporting for the Swiss News Service at the home of Joy and Campbell Graeub, 5202 Westport Road. Emiliano has recently been covering ongoing events at the Mexican border as well as other US events of interest to his Swiss audience. This Brookdale-at-Home event will begin at 7:30 p.m.
- April 28 — History of Brookdale Walking Tour led by historian Amy Rispin
- May 2 — Annual Meeting at Wisconsin Place Community Center
- May 11 — Spring Block Party on the South Side of Brookdale
- June 9 — House and Garden Tour of Brookdale

Other Developments affecting Brookdale

We continue to monitor developments that impact Brookdale. These include: (a) a proposed pedestrian crossing of Western Avenue at GEICO, (b) proposals for Montgomery County traffic safety improvements to the Brookdale community, (c) Montgomery County Bikeway plans, (d) GEICO boundary issues, (e) Willard Avenue Park development plans, and (f) developer's proposals for property adjacent to the cemetery on Murray Road. We will provide details to the community when tangible information becomes available.

Please consider paying your 2019 Association dues of \$30 online at our website, www.brookdalecitizens.org or send a check to the Brookdale Citizens Association c/o Heather Paul, 4502 Cortland Road in the enclosed envelop.

Help us meet our goal!

2019 DUES ARE DUE!

by Heather Paul

First, thanks to all of you —actually, 44% of you—who paid their dues in 2018. We are very appreciative and want you to know your \$30 was well spent across the range of events and initiatives that the Brookdale Citizens Association (BCA) organized.

And now we have a new goal for 2019: we want to see support from at least 60% of homes in our great community. Most recently, BCA delivered to your door a new and updated Brookdale Neighborhood Directory 2019, free of charge. It is a unique resource that doubtless everyone will use for a variety of reasons over the next year or two. This directory, together with the Brookdale Bugle newsletter that documents all we do across age groups, is proof positive that Brookdale is a vibrant community, bound together by many shared interests—whether it be family, education, travel, professional commitment, art, or a love of the Washington, DC area.

So, please consider paying \$30 online at our website, www.brookdalecitizens.org or send a check to the Brookdale Citizens Association c/o Heather Paul, 4502 Cortland Road. Help us meet our goal!

Thank you!

FALL STREET PARTY

by Marie Moylan

Brookdale was FINALLY able to enjoy its annual Fall street party on September 24 after two failed attempts, both postponed by rain and unpredictable forecasts. Participation was enthusiastic (about 70) and there was an amazing turnout of Brookdale's burgeoning future generation. Great s'mores over an open fire pit (which was hauled out, supervised and supplied by Mike Freeman and Linda Hallman) were the perfect finale for Brookdale's youngest, and the fire pit became a conversation spot for the 'late shift'. Thanks to our two grillers, David Lewis and Bob Banach, to our amazing popcorn team, Elysa Blacker and John Whealan, to the families nearby who lent their garden furniture, and to all those who contributed to the picnic fare, including Bill Geary who made his famous annual Jambalaya. And a huge thank you to Marie Moylan and David Lewis for organizing a great party!

PARK COMMISSION PURCHASES PROPERTY FOR PARK

by Manual Ochoa

On November 29 the Maryland National Park & Planning Commission purchased the small house at 4905 River Road that will now be added to the Willard Avenue Neighborhood Park. The small house, a former utility building converted to a home many years ago, was on the market for several months and did not sell. This provided an opportunity for Park & Planning Commission to purchase the property under the state's Open Space Program. Harold Pfohl, President of the Citizens' Coordinating Committee of Friendship Heights (CCCFH) testified in favor of the proposal on behalf of the community. We are pleased Chairman Casey Anderson supported the purchase as part of his efforts to improve the park. Purchase of the small lot and removal of the substandard house provide an opportunity to create more visibility for the park and create another access point.



Who doesn't enjoy a toasted marshmallow?

Photo by Sibyl Erdman



Fall Brookdale Block Party

Photo by Dick Podolske

Brookdalebugle

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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. The deadline to submit articles, notices, and ads for the April 2019 issue of the *Brookdale Bugle* is 9 p.m. on April 12.

NEIGHBORHOOD FIRE

By Jack Morton

On the day before Thanksgiving, Brookdale residents woke to the news that a large house fire had taken place early that morning in the 4800 Block of Western Avenue. The news eventually made it to the television, the internet, and then to the papers the next day. Sadly, neighbors learned that the two residents of the home, John Randolph (61) and his elderly mother, Inga Randolph perished in the fire that rapidly swept through the home.

According to fire investigators there was no evidence of working smoke alarms in the house and several new alarms were still in their boxes unopened. Damage is estimated to be over \$500,000.

The Randolphs were longtime residents and are fondly remembered by friends and neighbors. Brookdale resident Bill McCloskey reminded us on the listserv that “Inga’s late husband Bill Randolph, who passed away several years ago, was very active at the Little Falls Swimming and Tennis Club and served on the board there for some years. He did much of the research and work with the county to get approval for the renovation of the pool facilities late in the last century.” Inga used to walk her dog in the neighborhood. Bill was friendly with everyone and quick to lend a hand to neighbors. Brookdale resident Carol Brooks remembers Bill helping them hang a large painting over their fireplace and then assisting Carol when she locked herself and young son out of their car in the Strosnidars parking lot a number of years ago. Unfortunately, after Bill died Inga did not get out as much.

Often walking through the neighborhood and passing the burnt out home, I am reminded that tragedy can happen at any time and very quickly. While we should count our blessings every day, we can also take some steps to ensure we have an emergency plan and make our homes safer. Check your detectors at least once a year and make sure they are in every level of your home. Properly functioning smoke detectors may not prevent a fire but can save lives.



Photo by Washington Post

Safety Tip

According to the Montgomery County Fire Department, residents are urged to call 311 for information on the department’s FREE Home Safety Check program. Residents who cannot afford smoke alarms or would like to schedule a visit by firefighters to check smoke alarms and ensure they are working and up to date are urged to take advantage of the Department’s free and popular program.

BROOKDALE ART WALK

Another first this past Fall was the Brookdale Art Walk, held on Sunday, November 4. For the painters and the walkers it was a resounding success. Roughly fifty neighbors sauntered through a few host homes to see the paintings or photography of Dick Erdman, Mimi Guernica, Penny Kovach, Willem Bier, Dawn Sikkema, Wendy Smith, Heather Paul, Stacy Yochum, Jan Rowland, and Janusz Mrozek. In addition, Mary Marron displayed her German cut outs and Joy Graeub her collection of quilts. There was so much enthusiasm that others already have volunteered for a new Art Walk in another part of Brookdale next Fall.

MEET AND GREET AT CHATTER

Brookdale neighbors met at the Chatter Restaurant on Thursday, January 17 for an evening of meeting and greeting both new and old acquaintances. Ron DiGiovanni, a Brookdale resident and General Manager of Chatter, set aside a special area and several folks braved the inclement weather to have a good time. Some stayed on for delicious burgers and other fare. Thanks, Ron, for a great evening!



Pizza anyone? Photo by Dick Podolske



Photo by Dick Podolske



Blow the Eyeball contest

Photo by Elizabeth O'Keefe Kaufman

HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

by Tamar Nicholson

This year's Halloween party was conveniently held on Halloween night, and what an exciting adventure it was! Since the original weekend party date was rained out, we decided to aim for Halloween night and offer up a pizza dinner for the kids along with a bunch of great Halloween games before they headed out to collect goodies from the neighbors. Both kids and parents dressed up for the occasion and everyone were fantastic about stepping up to help with the games. The kids played blow the eyeball, carry the eyeball on a spoon, and mummy wrap to name a few of the crazy games we set up this year. As you can well imagine, the pizza addition was well received by all, as were the glow in the dark bracelets and finger wraps we had for all to enjoy and be safe in the dark. The party ended a little before dark and inspired many to begin trick or treating just before twilight, surprising a few who weren't quite ready with the loot! The feedback about dinner being provided was overwhelmingly positive, the kids just raced off to trick or treat immediately after the party, and returned home early enough to eat a piece of candy and get ready for school the next day.

I'd like to make a huge shout out to the very talented Liz Kaufman, who took some extraordinary pics of the party that are most easily viewed on the Brookdale Facebook page, and to Harry and Celinda Peña who had a huge movie screen up with kids movies while the young ones were out. They later switched to the Rocky Horror Picture Show for a few adult stragglers out galivanting about.



Photo by Elizabeth O'Keefe Kaufman



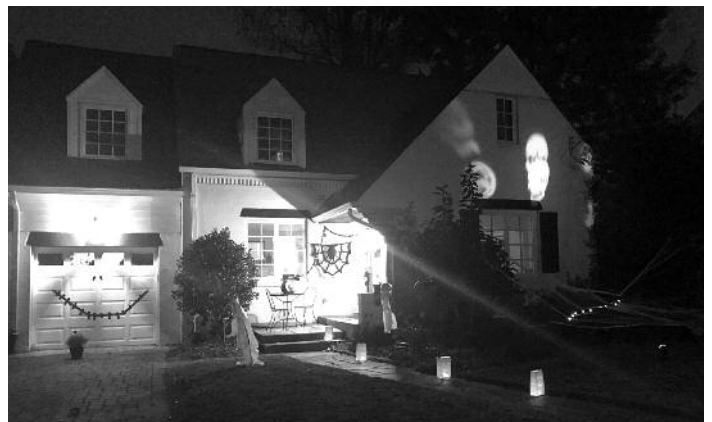
Photo by Dick Podolske



Photo by Dick Podolske

HALLOWEEN HAUNTED HOUSE WINNERS

Our Brookdale neighbors came up with a large number of great haunted houses last year. Our panel of judges selected one winner and three honorable mentions. The winning home belonged to Tom Sinks and Kelley Scanlon at 4611 Merivale Road. The photo doesn't do full justice to the presentation as it was difficult to capture the wide range of lighted, animated, and other spooky objects on display. Honorable mention went to: Kari Swenson and Kenny Foster at 4701 Overbrook Road, Jean and Donald Houghton at 5310 Baltimore Road, and Jennifer and Rob Keller at 5305 Saratoga.



Haunted House Winner

Photo by Dick Podolske

JOHN ADAMS AND THE MAGIC BOBBLEHEAD

—book two in my children’s book series!

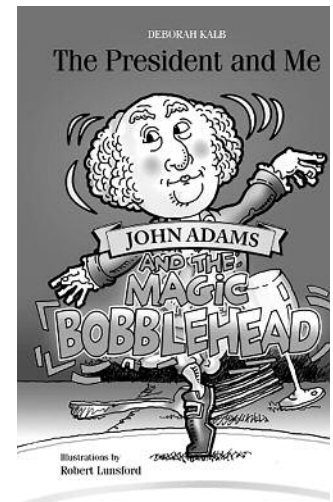
by Deborah Kalb

The first thing I should probably mention is that my series of children’s books takes place in Brookdale. Well, a disguised Brookdale, but still. Sam, the fifth-grade main character in *George Washington and the Magic Hat*, lives more or less in my house on Merivale Road and Ava, his classmate who’s the main character in book two, *John Adams and the Magic Bobblehead*, lives across the street.

The second thing I’ll say is that these present-day fifth graders spend much of the books traveling back in time to meet the early presidents and their families. In book two, Ava, in Boston for a family wedding, ends up in the 18th and

19th centuries with John and Abigail Adams and their kids. But she’s also dealing with her newly blended family, including her extremely annoying third-grade stepbrother, J.P. So while the books incorporate a lot of history, the characters are also confronting 21st-century worries and concerns back home.

I’ve just finished book three, which focuses on Thomas Jefferson, so I hope to be able to talk more about that in the near future. The books are available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Indiebound.



BROOKDALE-AT-HOME

– A Holiday Celebration

Bill Grigg was kind enough to host a Brookdale book/holiday party on December 9. It was a festive occasion as the house was decorated for the holidays and Bill had set up his incredible train collection for all to take delight in. Deborah Kalb had a chance to answer some insightful questions about her latest book, *John Adams and the Magic Bobblehead* (see article). The guests, including lots of neighborhood kids, enjoyed the holiday refreshments, the magical village for the trains, and spirited conversations.



Photo by Dick Podolske

BROOKDALE AND GEICO

by Adrienne Nassau

Representatives of the Brookdale Community meet with a GEICO representative about three times per year to discuss concerns of mutual interest. Adrienne Nassau, a Brookdale Board member, represents our community and Terry Perkins, the Vice President of Real Estate and Facilities Management, represents GEICO.

Generally our relationship with GEICO has been good for the past twenty years. Mr. Perkins has said that GEICO would like to be a good neighbor with our community and we have indicated that our purpose is the same.

During the past year, GEICO has responded positively to our concerns regarding improving maintenance of the buffer area, bettering security, and preventing night-time noise near their dumpsters. Specifically, they have cleared ivy and undergrowth from the buffer, kept the GEICO sign lighted on Western Avenue, kept the lights on at night in the smoking gazebo, and directed employees not to dump trash or back up trucks during sleeping hours.

GEICO had been thinking of modifying the lighting in its parking lots, but now has made the decision not to remodel its parking lot lights.

The gazebo is an attractive meeting place for teenagers and others outside of GEICO’s business hours. No one should be in the gazebo after hours, and, in fact, there have been

incidents of vandalism in the gazebo during such occasions. The GEICO representative requested that community members call GEICO’s security department when they see the gazebo being used after business hours. The phone number for GEICO Security is 301-986-2121.

Adrienne’s phone number is 301-775-4075, and her email address is anassau@icloud.com. Brookdale residents should get in touch with her concerning any issues that involve GEICO.

RIVER ROAD CONSTRUCTION

by Bill McCloskey

The construction that has led to lane closures on River Road in Brookdale has been suspended until the end of January. The current project is another phase in the multi-year rebuilding and upgrading of Pepco’s Harrison Street substation in the 5200 block of Wisconsin Avenue in the District.

Resumption of work at the end of the month will involve installation of underground lines to service the substation. The work is scheduled to be completed in mid-March, according to Tami Watkins, Pepco’s point person on the project.

Much of the work is being done on Little Falls Parkway. The barriers on River Road have to do with detouring traffic from turning on Little Falls. Robert Dyer’s Bethesda Row newsletter reports there will be another phase of the project from March until the beginning of June.

REAL ESTATE REPORT: BROOKDALE/WOHLSHIRE/ORCHARDALE

by Tamar Nicolson

The information below is for January 1 - December 31, 2018

Address	Rented/ Sold/Active	List Price/Sold Price/ Rental Rate	BR	FB	HB	Acres	Age	DOM	Close Date
5000 Park Place	Sold	\$1,199,000/\$1,330,000	4	3	1	0.22	82	10	3.9.18
4838 Park Avenue	Sold	\$1,049,000/\$1,101,000	4	4	1	0.22	95	19	3.16.18
5121 Newport Avenue	Sold	\$1,095,000/\$1,095,000	4	3	1	0.15	78	5	4.5.18
5000 Dalton Road	Sold	\$1,550,000/\$1,570,000	5	5	5	0.16	88	3	5.15.18
5315 Willard Avenue	Sold	\$1,349,000/\$1,350,000	4	3	0	0.11	8	6	6.22.18
5029 Brookdale Road	Sold	\$815,000/\$860,000	3	2	1	0.21	80	\$21	6.28.18
4920 Crescent Street	Sold	\$1,020,000/\$1,090,000	4	2	1	0.12	80	11	6.29.18
4600 Overbrook Road	Sold	\$1,110,000/\$1,095,000	5	4	1	0.15	82	6	7.6.18
4815 River Road	Sold	\$549,900/\$515,000	2	1	1	0.12	17	143	8.30.18
4838 Park Avenue	Rented	\$1495/\$1495				0.22	95	10	4.18.18
5322 Baltimore Avenue	Active	\$3,300/\$2,999	4	2	1	0.11	70	141	10.5.18
5203 Saratoga Avenue	Active	\$3,200/\$3,200	3	2	2	0.12	69	13	1.6.19
5205 Saratoga Avenue	Active	\$3,395/\$3,200	3	2	1	0.15	68	54	11.26.18
4625 River Road	Rented	\$3,500/\$3,500	2	2	1	0.18	80	33	4.12.18
5015 Dalton Road	Rented	\$4,100/\$4,100	4	2	0	0.23	71	69	6.3.18

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 at Tamar@CallTamarToday.com or 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 snerdman@mac.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

CLASSIFIEDS

Local Home Repair Services

As you begin the new year, check your list of small or medium-size house projects that you vow to get done in 2019. Jesse Zhang is available at 4502 Cortland Road to stop by and offer a free assessment for inside or outside home repairs and even general oversight of homes for long absences. Local references available. (Contact: jczhangchina@yahoo.com or call 202-853-4519.

Need A New Website?

Gabe Seiden at Connect4 Consulting designs websites for small businesses and nonprofit organizations. Connect4 Consulting is a technology-driven marketing firm located in Takoma Park,

MD. With more than twenty years of marketing and IT experience, Connect4 Consulting provides small businesses and non-profit organizations full service technology and marketing solutions by uniting marketing, communications, design, and technology. Connect4 Consulting focuses on websites, graphic design, social media, and internet marketing. For more information, call 202-236-2968 or email gabe@connect4consulting.com.

Dog Walker, Babysitter, Plant Waterer

James is a junior at BCC and would be happy to walk your dog, water plants, babysit etc. If interested, please call him at 425-351-7165. Excellent references.

TRANSITIONS

Births

Cora Ashlin Shelton was born July 18, 2018. Parents Yonce and JoJo Shelton, and big brother Cole (10), have been unable to resist her every wish - and love a good challenge. So, we also added a playmate for her: 4-month-old French bulldog, Mookie. Yes, Red Sox fans, the names are not coincidental during this special year.

Erica and Stewart Crosland of 4709 Dover Road are thrilled to announce the birth of their son Edward Gray Crosland on January 15.

Deaths

The neighbors on Dover Road were saddened this year by the passing of our two neighbors, Elena Gontcharova of 4704 Dover Road and Julia Schoo of 4703 Dover. Julia's daughter and grandchildren Gretchen, Henry, and Elsa Pickens continue to live in the house.

Marriage

Alex Gontcharov of 4704 Dover Road has recently married Eteri Bakradze.

New Neighbors

The house at 4711 Dover previously owned by John Wright sold in December. The new neighbors have not yet moved in.