

Brookdale *bugle*

ESTABLISHED 1938

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Dick Podolske

Since our last Bugle issued in January, our Brookdale Community has continued to be very active. The following is a brief summary of our recent and planned activities.

Brookdale-at-Home Events since the last Bugle

- In February, Emiliano Bos presented his experiences as a reporter for the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, at the home of Richard Podolske and Diane Waters.
- In March, Ed Moyer discussed his experience as a DC travel guide, at the home of Adrienne Nassau.

Upcoming Brookdale Events

At present, we have scheduled 10 Brookdale events during the period of April thru October (see separate box). It would be good to mark your calendars for those events you might

be interested in attending. Particularly important will be our annual meeting on May 2nd, where several topics of importance to our community will be discussed, including two proposed changes to our constitution.

Tentative Agenda for the Annual Meeting

The following are the proposed topics to be addressed at our annual meeting

- Two Proposed changes to the Brookdale by-laws (see separate box)
- Election of Brookdale officers
- Discussion of neighborhood safety & security with the assistance of a Montgomery County police officer
- Discussion of our new Stay in Place initiative
- Discussion of other developments that impact Brookdale
- Other issues of concern to Brookdale residents

Stay in Place Initiative

We are particularly pleased that David Lewis and Marie Moylan have agreed to assume responsibility for moving our community toward implementing measures to address the needs of our residents who would appreciate assistance in being able to live in place as they age. A key recommendation has been that we should become active in the **Little Falls Village** operation which not only has provisions for assisting those who desire help with an annual fee, but additionally has many ongoing events that can be enjoyed by all residents at no or minimal cost. Based on their recommendation, you have been receiving notices from the Village of their upcoming events.

continued on page 2

IMPORTANT DATES

Agenda

Brookdale Citizens' Association Annual Meeting
Thursday May 2, 2019

- 6:30-7:15** Happy Hour and Raffle (see last item)
7:15-7:30 Police Presentation on Safety and Security, Dana Stroman, Community Services Officer, 2nd District, Montgomery County Police
7:30-8:30 Meeting Agenda
- Proposed changes to Brookdale by-laws
 - Election of Brookdale officers
 - Discussion of new Stay in Place initiative & Presentation by Lisa Rosenthal
 - Presentation of upcoming Brookdale Events
 - Discussion of other developments that impact Brookdale
 - Accessory housing
 - GEICO border issues
 - Willard Avenue Park
 - Green men placement
 - Pedestrian crossing of Western Avenue
 - Requested Montgomery County traffic improvements
 - Other issues of concern to Brookdale residents
- 8:30** Raffle Results – Win a wine tasting in your own home for 20 people donated by Paul's Liquor, 5205 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.

BROOKDALE'S FAMILY BLOCK PARTY – MAY 11

Please join fellow Brookdale residents for an evening of family fun and neighborhood camaraderie. There will be fun for the kids, conversation for the adults, and a good time for all.

When: Saturday, May 11 (Rain Date May 12)

Time: 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Where: The corner of Keokuk and Dover Road in Brookdale South

What to bring: Your neighbor, a favorite appetizer, main dish, salad, or desert to share

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *from page 1*

Other Developments Affecting Brookdale

We continue to monitor developments that impact Brookdale. These include (a) the Montgomery County Accessory housing initiative (see separate article), (b) our requested traffic improvements by Montgomery County and the District of Columbia, (c) GEICO boundary issues, (d) Willard Park development plans, and (e) developer actions with respect to development of properties adjacent to or on burial grounds. These will be discussed at our annual meeting as time permits.

We continue to have a good discussions with GEICO regarding issues along our boundary with GEICO including the smoke shack. In that vein, Terry Perkins of GEICO has asked us to please not litter and to pick up after your dog when passing through GEICO property.

Two changes to the Brookdale By-laws are proposed:

Revision to Article 1, Section 1: Dues and Assessments.
Dues shall be \$40 per calendar year (corresponding to the Brookdale fiscal year)per property starting on January 1, 2020.

Revision to Article III, Section 3: Election of Officers.
The elected officers shall hold office for a one year term beginning June 1 with no limits on the number of terms to be reelected. The person holding the office of President shall not hold office more than four terms unless no candidate seeks the Presidency.

BROOKDALE OFFICERS FOR 2019-2020

Dear Brookdale Residents:

We are quickly approaching our Annual Meeting on May 2, 2019. As the chair of the Nominating Committee, I am reaching out to our Brookdale community for residents interested in joining our active board of officers. To date, the following are interested in serving for the 2019-2020 term.

President:	Rep. at Large: Adrienne Nassau
Vice President Brookdale N: Mike Makuch	Vice President Brookdale S: Jack Morton
Vice President Orchardale: Manuel Ochoa	Vice President Wohlshire: Tom Husted
Secretary: Amy Rispin	Treasurer: Heather Paul

The officers and the Nominating Committee invite any other resident who might be interested in serving in one of the above positions to contact me. We encourage all members to be involved.

The role of President is open due to term limits imposed by our constitution. Accordingly, Dick Podolske's role as President will end at our annual meeting on May 2nd. We are looking for someone to assume this role. The duties of the Brookdale P resident as indicated in the constitution are as follows:

The duties of the President shall be: a) To act as the Chief Executive Officer of the Association; b) To call and preside at all meetings of the Association; c) To call and preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee; d) To appoint all delegates and alternates to represent the Association in other civic organizations; e) To coordinate the action required by the area Vice Presidents; f) To appoint Committee Members of all Special Committees; g) To enforce the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.

Basically, the President is an organizer with the principal duty of seeking the help of others to do the work of the organization. The job is not difficult given the willingness of our officers and the residents of our community to help.

If you are interested in the position of President, or any other position, please email Mike Makuch at mmakuch@sgrlaw.com.

Best Regards,
Mike

Brookdalebugle

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

SUGGESTIONS FROM THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE

By Michelle Hainbach

Unfortunately, my car (parked in the driveway) was rifled through two weeks ago. Fortunately, there was nothing of value in the car and nothing (except loose change for parking meters) was taken. It was one of several incidents in the past few weeks that were reported to the police and the officer who came out to my home asked me to remind neighbors of the following:

- Don't leave anything of value in your car.
- Don't leave any bags, purses, back packs in the car even if empty. The people trying to get into your car don't know the bags are empty and will break a window to get in.

- Don't leave any keys in your car.
- If you (or your dog) hear a noise at night, look out an upstairs window (with the lights off) and if you see something suspicious call the police.
- If you have or plan to install security cameras, point them out towards the road too, so they can capture a car license plate.
Some of the people coming through the neighborhood at night are coming in cars (not on foot).
- If a street light near your home is out, call 311 non-emergency line or do it online through the County website to report it and have the lightbulb replaced. (You will need the pole number that is on the side of the pole.)

WILLARD AVENUE PARK UPDATE

By Manuel Ochoa

Over the past year, the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights (CCCFH), the Village of Friendship Heights, Somerset, and Brookdale have been in contact with Casey Anderson, Chair of Montgomery County Planning Commission, and staff on the status of the house at 5320

Willard Avenue. The house is owned by Park and Planning and is currently under lease again. When the property was bought over thirty years ago, the one-acre property was supposed to be demolished and incorporated into Willard Avenue Park. Most recently CCCFH Chair, Harold Pfohl, spoke with Chairman Casey about the property who understood that steps were underway to study the demolition of the property. Our Park and Planning liaison, Norman Knopf, has contacted Chairman Casey for an update. At press time, we have received no new update.

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS PROPOSAL

By Manuel Ochoa

On March 5th, the County Council had a public hearing on a zoning change (ZTA 19-01) to streamline the process to build Accessory Dwelling Units. Accessory Dwelling Units are typically separate units on the same property as a single-family home. ADU's have their own entrance, kitchen, and bath. Some examples include backyard cottages, basement apartments, and garage conversions that expand housing choice for family members such as grown children or grandparents. ADU's are sometimes referred to as "granny flats." ADU's are also viewed as another tool to increase affordability for working families by providing an affordable unit in an otherwise expensive neighborhood and provide additional income for young families to afford a home in an otherwise expensive neighborhood. Cities across the country have created more opportunities across the country to allow for more ADUs. For example, Portland changed its zoning regulations in 1998 to allow for more ADUs. Today, the city has over 4000 ADU units compared to 468 legal units in Montgomery County.

Currently, ADU's are allowed under the zoning ordinance but practically speaking, ADU's are restricted. For example, mostly property owners with one acre or more are able to build an ADU. The County is considering various solutions to address the housing shortage and the ever increasing rents that are starting to affect the County's competitiveness. Some concerns that have been raised regarding ADUs include whether or not units can be rented on a short-term basis (i.e. Airbnb), whether units can be subdivided and sold, and whether or not the property must be owner occupied.

Because of the speed of the proposal and lack of public input, the Citizens Coordinating Committee of Friendship Heights (CCCDH) does not support the zoning amendment. CCCFH recommends further study and consideration before proceeding to a vote. The Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee most recently considered the proposal at a working session on April 4th. More information can be found on the Montgomery County Council web page. To see the staff report, click on Committee Work Sessions and Staff Report, then on the April 4th PHED row, and then agenda and staff reports. Scroll down to the bottom of the agenda and click on ZTA 19-01.

PENDING CHANGE IN RESIDENTIAL SPEED LIMITS FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY

by Bill McCloskey

Legislation proposed in the Maryland House by Delegate David Moon (D) to allow Montgomery County and other local jurisdictions to lower current 25 miles an hour speed limits on residential roadways has been approved by the state's House of Delegates.

Initially proposed as a way to allow a lower speed limit on some residential roads to 15 mph, the bill was amended in a House committee to a 20 mph cap.

As of April 1, House Bill 203 sits in the Senate Judicial Proceedings (JPR) Committee. Moon is pushing for the bill to get a vote in JPR, but notably, Moon noted, they didn't allow a vote on the bill two years ago. The 2019 legislative session is scheduled to end April 8.

More info on the bill is here:

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=hb0203&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2019RS>

RIVER ROAD UTILITY WORK THROUGH SPRING

by Bill McCloskey

- MD 190 (River Road) from Landy Lane to Dorset Ave. Gas Service Replacement. Northbound and southbound double lane closures overnight, 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Sunday through Thursday through late spring 2019. (Contact: Bradley Swint, 571-220-2452) (UP) (MO-0986-18)
- MD 190 (River Road) from Little Falls Parkway to Saratoga Avenue. Commissioning transition line. Westbound double lane closures overnight, 4 p.m. to 9 a.m. through late spring 2019. (Contact: Jim Michael, 202-359-6875) (MO-0795-18) (UP)
- MD 190 (River Road) between Brookside Drive and Dorset Avenue. WSSC sewer pipe repair. Intermittent lane closures in both directions Sunday through Thursday overnight, 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through late spring 2019. There will be additional noise and brighter than normal lights in the work zone. (Contact: Justin Wolfrey: 202-595-4652) (UP)
- MD 190 (River Road) from Butler Road to Greystone Street. Installation of electrical cable and Harrison Station upgrade. Northbound and southbound multi lane closures during the daytime on weekdays and weekends through late spring 2019. (Contact: Tami Watkins, 202-872-3590)

STREET LIGHT OUTINGS

by Campbell Graeub

If you notice a malfunctioning street light, you should contact Pepco who does the maintenance. Report it on www.Pepco.com and look for street light outage. The location, house number, and street must be given. It is also good to look for the Pepco pole number and give it as well. In Montgomery County, Pepco serves the street lights on wooden poles (typically telephone poles) only.



BOUNDARY MARKER

The limb that toppled the boundary marker last year was removed as was another tree standing next to it. The sign and protective fence have been restored. For those of you who haven't seen the repairs, Bill McCloskey has sent along this photo.

HISTORIC HOMES OF BROOKDALE: THE SHOEMAKER FAMILY FARMHOUSE

*Written originally by and now as a posthumous tribute
to Gwen Lewis, former editor of the Brookdale Bugle.*

The original Shoemaker family farmhouse is located at 5305 Saratoga Avenue. It is thought to have been built in the 1890s by William and Sally (Perry) Shoemaker. The original three-bedroom, two-bath house was located on Shoemaker Lane (called Saratoga from at least 1950). Shoemaker Road was the farm lane from River Road that customers used to reach William Shoemaker's farm stand where he sold fruits and vegetables, including berries, to his customers. From the top floor of the home one could see Virginia and the Blue Ridge Mountains in the 1950s.

At least two children of the Shoemakers, Mary Ellen and Ruth, were born in this house. Ruth, who never married, lived at home and helped her father run the farm. At the same time she represented Montgomery County in the Md State legislature.

Mary Ellen married Rudolf Bopp in 1920 and remained in the neighborhood all her life. Mary Ellen assembled an annotated scrapbook book on life here a century ago. She was also interviewed by the Bethesda Journal, leaving fascinating accounts of farm life, including an account of Mary Ann, a slave, who worked for her grandmother before

the Civil War and established a family settlement a half mile up River Rd in the 1870's, while continuing to work for the Shoemaker family until she was too old to work. Descendants of the Shoemaker family remember their roots and remain attentive to the area.

When Arline and Samuel Gordon bought the property in January 1950, the house was owned and lived in by Mr. Vigeland, who they believe had purchased it from the Shoemakers. He was a construction overseer for a number of houses built in Orchardale in the 1940s and 50s. There was a well on the property and a barn that was torn down to build the Gaist house next door. During 1954 and 55, the Gordons experienced a fire in their home. As a result, they moved into another Orchardale house for six months, while their house was repaired and expanded to include three more bedrooms and a new sitting room. These renovations entailed removing a large porch. Mr. Gordon worked for many years as an administrative law judge for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Mrs. Gordon designed and furnished many large dollhouses.

2019 DUES OFF TO A GOOD START!

by Heather Paul

A quarter of the Brookdale families already paid their \$30 dues in the first quarter of 2019! THANK YOU! This is a record-breaking endorsement in the first quarter for the work of the Brookdale Citizens Association (BCA). Our Brookdale-at-Home events continue every month as do our local government advocacy and our planning for other community events such as block parties. We welcome all to attend our annual meeting on the evening of May 2nd. At that time we will be proposing a dues increase of \$10,

the first increase in a number of years. It has been endorsed by the full BCA Board to cover our increased number of activities. If passed, annual dues of \$40 will not go into effect until 2020.

If you haven't paid the 2019 dues yet, bring your checkbook to the annual meeting May 2nd or go online the night before and pay with PayPal.

THE KIDS' PAGE



Stella Nails It!

Stella Szostak started gymnastics around 5 years old, and she has loved it ever since. Stella continued competing even when she lived in Columbia, South America and when returning to the US she reached Level 6—which meant she had more freedom to create her own routines and skill-building. In addition to being on the BCC team as a Freshman, she is also on the Silver Stars team. Stella believes gymnastics has made her tough and disciplined, overcoming mental and physical challenges that come with the sport. She also has learned to balance her schoolwork and gym life. Stella says, “all the sacrifices are worth it. There is nothing better than the thrill of nailing a bar routine!”

The Bugle Newsletter (BN) interviewed BCC Senior, Bella Fleeger:

BN: First, congratulations, Bella, on your acceptance to the USCGA. What a great thrill and honor—especially when the Coast Guard Academy accepts roughly 13% (275) of its thousands of applicants.

I am interviewing you today because we know kids of all ages across Brookdale have dreams—about sports, personal goals, or what they want to be when they grow up.

When did you start thinking about a military academy and why?

Bella: Like most kids, my thoughts about the future were always changing. What I did know is that I wanted to have



BCC Volleyball Player Bella Fleeger Heads for the US Coast Guard Academy

an impact on others. I had relatives who were Navy, so when I started my college search, I wanted to experience military life by applying to the Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard summer programs. I attended them all and fell in love with the academies.

BN: Are you ready for your obligation to your country? What will that mean?

Bella: I feel prepared and very excited to serve my nation for at least five years after graduation. I love the mission of the Coast Guard—to protect our nation from dangers and to protect our borders. I will be trained to make difficult decisions and lead other coastguardsmen.

BN: Volleyball has played an important role in your life. When did you start playing and how does being an athlete prepare you for military service and leadership? I know that you will be playing volleyball for the USCGA too.

Bella: I started travel volleyball when I was 11. I was hooked from the start. When I wasn't at practice, I was in the backyard playing with my parents. As I got older, I got more competitive and took on more responsibility, becoming captain of my teams. And of course I couldn't have done it without my family. They have devoted hundreds and hundreds of hours attending my games and supporting me.

BN: What does it take to be a serious athlete in the teen years?

Bella: Dedication and passion. You have to really love your sport, all the time driving to be better. You have to study the game, stay physically and mentally fit, and have a good character. I can't imagine getting as far as I have without volleyball. It has been a great source of happiness, fun, and competition. I have traveled and met terrific people and have had a life-changing opportunities.

BN: How have you been able to balance school and your studies?

Bella: It's always a challenge. But I think that being a good student and a good athlete go hand in hand. I set priorities and have a comfortable routine that allows me to be productive. For instance, I tackle bigger homework assignments before practice and save the smaller assignments for later that night or early morning. Then you always take work with you for travel games and squeeze in the time.

BN: How has BCC High School prepared you for your future?

Bella: BCC has given me a terrific platform and opportunities to excel as a student and a leader. For instance, I was able to create the first USO Club in the school to help support men and women in the military. BCC also is unique in the area in that it offers the rigorous International Baccalaureate (IB) program that pushed me to handle a heavy workload and to do lots of writing and analysis.

BN: Last, Bella, what advice would you give other kids with big dreams for the future?

Bella: First and foremost, NEVER GIVE UP! Try to be as disciplined as you can. You will face disappointments—but turn them into lessons that make you stronger. Look at obstacles as positive challenges. Also, I would say that kids should appreciate their families for doing so much to help them reach their goals. I had the support of my parents as well as my younger sister, Sophie, a BCC sophomore, and brother, Luke, a 5th grader at Westbrook. Just remember, your family is doing their best so you can do your best!



Soccer Comes in Threes

The Yeh-Fuentes brothers have a strong bond and it's soccer! According to their mom, Alicia Fuentes, a Spanish teacher at Westland Middle School, they each started playing soccer at three years old with Brit-Am Soccer Academy. Now the brothers all play for DC Stoddert Soccer recreational and travel teams. Marc is an 8th grader at Westland and Pablo, a 5th grader, and Eric, a 2nd grader, are at Westbrook. Both older brothers also play for Maryland's Olympic Development Program.



Ice Hockey Fans

We have some big ice hockey fans in the neighborhood too! Here are (center to right) Luke Fleeger, Henry Swann, and LiAng Zhang at Cabin John Ice Rink "sharpening" their skills. Good friend and ice skater, Anya Chaudhry, joins the Brookdale group.



A Brookdale Magic School Bus

Every weekday morning while many in the Brookdale neighborhood are getting ready for work or catching a few extra winks, cheerful groups of kids are awaiting the school bus on several corners of the hood. Here's a happy group of Westbrook elementary kids gathered at the corner of Merivale and Andover.

REAL ESTATE REPORT: BROOKDALE/WOHLSHIRE/ORCHARDALE

by Tamar Nicolson

January 1 - April 9, 2019

Address	Rented/ Sold/Active	List Price/Sold Price/ Rental Rate	BR	FB	HB	Acres	Age	DOM	Close Date
Properties Sold in 2019									
5306 Sherrill Avenue	Sold	\$825,000/\$710,000	2	1	0	0.11	71	21	1.8.19
4711 Dover Road	Sold	\$979,000/\$990,000	3	2	1	0.14	83	4	1.8.19
4603 Cooper Lane	Sold	\$1,095,000/	3	2	1	0.15	83	21	4.8.19
Properties Rented in 2018									
5322 Baltimore Avenue	rented	\$2,999/\$2,800	4	2	1	0.11	71	158	2.21.19
5205 Saratoga Avenue	rented	\$3,995/\$3,300	3	2	1	0.15	69	65	2.20.19
4732 Merivale Road	rented	\$4,300/\$4,150	4	3	1	0.14	70	131	3.15.19

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 (for 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

Spring is here and so are small or medium-size house projects that might have been put off until warmer weather. Jesse Zhang is available on Cortland Road to stop by and offer a free assessment for inside or outside home repairs and even general oversight of homes for short or long absences. Local references available. (Contact: jczhangchina@yahoo.com or call 202-853-4519).

PET SITTER & WALKER

Becca Adlin, an experienced middle school pet sitter, with references, is looking for pet sitting, dog walking and similar work in the neighborhood.

Please e-mail mikeadlin@verizon.net to be connected.

TRANSITIONS

Shane Fitzgibbon and Jessica Collingwood and their two daughters have just moved into 4607 Merivale. We send them a warm welcome.

UPCOMING BROOKDALE EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

April:

"River Road, A Century of History in Black and White".

A presentation by Amy Rispin on Thursday, April 25th at the home of Tamar and David Nicolson.

May:

Annual Brookdale Meeting on Thursday, May 2nd at Wisconsin Place Community Center. Social hour to start at 6:30PM with wine tasting, a presentation by a Montgomery Country policeman on safety, and an extensive agenda.

May Street Party at the corner of Dover Road and Keokuk Street starting at 5:30PM, Saturday, May 11th organized by Jack Morton.

June:

House and Garden Tour on Sunday, June 9th organized by Adrienne Nassau

Zoo Tour at 9:30 am Saturday, June 29th (rain date June 30th), organized by Marsha Broadwell.

July:

4th of July celebration at Brookdale Park organized by Cary Devorsetz

September:

"Rising Start in the Park": a back to school event in Brookdale park for pre-k thru 5th grade families on Monday, September 2nd, organized by Heather Paul.

Fall Street Party Saturday, September 7 organized by Mike Makuch

October:

Halloween on October 31st on both sides of River Road
Progressive Art Tour in Brookdale South in October to be organized by Jan Rowen.