

Brookdale *bugle*

ESTABLISHED 1938

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Dick Podolske

Dear Brookdale Residents,

We hope that you have been able to handle the coronavirus situation as well as can be expected. This is a very challenging time for all of us. Nevertheless, our community remains active. Our activities are summarized below.

- **Groups.io as a Means of Community Communication.** Largely due to the very hard work of Paul Rispin, we have introduced Groups.io as our principal means of Brookdale communication. This system is more advanced than Yahoo Brookdale and permits attachments and other features not available on Yahoo Brookdale. More importantly, virtually all Brookdale residents are now listed in the system unless you (regrettably) decide to opt out. We expect that in due course we will drop Yahoo Brookdale and ask that you now use Groups.io as your principal way to communicate with members of our neighborhood. We are well aware that currently there are certain problems (such as the receipt of large numbers of unwanted messages) that need to be addressed and we are working on this.

- **Annual Meeting.** Due to the coronavirus situation we have postponed the annual Brookdale meeting to June 9. Anticipating that social distancing restrictions likely will still be in place at that time, we conduct the meeting using Zoom. The meeting will start at 7 pm. While this isn't the ideal way to have such a meeting, it is important that we meet to discuss and vote on some important matters. There will be separate instructions on how to sign in for this meeting and how it will be conducted.
- **Constitutional Amendment.** The Brookdale Board is recommending an amendment to the Brookdale constitution to add another Brookdale Vice Presidency within part of the Brookdale area located southwest of River Road currently defined as Brookdale South. This is the largest portion of Brookdale and can use more representation. To this end, we wish to carve out a separate area within Brookdale South to be called Park-Newport. It includes those residences located along Park Avenue, Park Place, Newport Avenue, and short stretches of Montgomery

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BROOKDALE OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021

by Mike Makuch

A big thank you to this year's Brookdale Nominating Committee for its work in proposing officer candidates for the Community for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The Committee assembled in April consisted of Lisa Blacker representing Brookdale North, Abner Oakes representing Brookdale South, Celinda Pena Schoffner for Wohlshire, and Ian de Cruz on behalf of Orcharddale. After meeting in May, the Committee proposes the following slate of candidates for consideration and voting at the Annual Meeting, currently scheduled for June 9, 2020 by Zoom:

- President, Dick Podolske
- Vice President, Brookdale North, Mike Makuch
- Vice President, Brookdale South, Jack Morton
- Vice President, Wohlshire, Tom Husted
- Vice President, Orcharddale, Manuel Ochoa
- Secretary, Amy Rispin
- Treasurer, Heather Paul
- Representative-at-Large, Adrienne Nassau.

The Committee also included one additional candidate in its deliberations. The reason for the candidate is the potential creation of another Brookdale officer position

to represent a division of Brookdale South into two sections, Brookdale South and Park-Newport. This will be taken up at the Annual Meeting. In this context, the Committee includes in its proposed slate, Federico Glücksmann as Vice President for Park-Newport.

With the exception of Federico, the slate is the same as that proposed at last year's Annual Meeting, and so a short bio

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ANNUAL BROOKDALE MEETING

**Remotely by Zoom:
Tuesday, June 9th - starting at 7pm
Instructions to be provided
via Groups.io**

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Avenue and Keokuk Street located between Park Avenue and Newport Avenue. We will be seeking your approval at the annual meeting to amend Section 2 of Article IV to permit five Vice Presidents and also to amend Section 1 of Article III to permit the Nominating Committee to include a representative from the new Brookdale area called Park-Newport.

- **Nomination of Brookdale Officers.** Michael Makuch has coordinated the assembly of the Nominating Committee that has proposed a slate of officers to serve Brookdale this year. The Nominating Committee operates independently without any influence by current or possible future officers. Voting on the recommended slate of officers will be conducted at the Annual Meeting. See the separate article on this matter.

- **Upcoming Events.** Due to the Covid-19 epidemic the Spring block party has been cancelled. We are hoping that we will be able to have the 4th of July parade and party as usual. Other Brookdale events will be announced as conditions permit.
- **Maintenance of Boundary Park.** We are pleased to announce that, subsequent to the article in the February Bugle, the Montgomery County Parks Department has now announced they will continue to mow the entire Boundary Park area as mowed in previous years. This change in plans was largely due to the petition of neighbors seeking the retention of this service. The Parks Department also cleaned up the sidewalk along Western Avenue at our request. See separate article on this development.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE JUNE 2!!

The Maryland Primary Election has been moved to **June 2, 2020**. It will be mainly vote by mail with limited in-person voting on June 2.

All active registered voters will be **mailed a ballot** in early May by the Board of Elections.

Check your voter registration at <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch> or text Check to 777-88 and update your address or party affiliation if necessary by May 27.

Vote your ballot, **sign** the oath, and **return** your voted ballot by mail. You will not need a stamp- the envelope will have postage on it. Your ballot must be postmarked by June 2. You may also drop your ballot at any one of four Vote Centers or at a drop box at the Board of Elections or Rockville City Hall between May 21 and June 2 at 8 p.m. Go to the [Montgomery County Board of Elections](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/elections/index2.html) website for more details (<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/elections/index2.html>).

The highly respected non-partisan *Voters' Guide from the League of Women Voters* will be coming soon in both an English and a Spanish version. Check our website (<https://www.lwvmocomd.org>) for updates or go to vote411.org now.



<http://www.lwvmocomd.org/>

Brookdalebugle

Editor Sibyl Erdman
Layout & Photo Editor Michael Oliwa

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 2020 issue of the *Brookdale Bugle* is 9 p.m. on September 6. Don't delay, be early!

BROOKDALE KIDS INVOLVED IN CHARITY WORK DURING COVID-19

Tikkun Hai'r is a teen program where teenagers from the synagogue Adat Shalom go into Washington, DC for the first three days of our summer vacation. Along with many others, we have been doing it for many years. There, we volunteer all over the city at places like *So Others Might Eat* and *We Are Family*. We also must live off the food stamp budget for those three days. Year after year, we keep coming back and doing this program because it helps us both truly connect with our community and each other. Right now, during this trying time, our beloved leader, Pam Sommers, reached out to all of us and asked us to each help with a project:

"My name is Maia Egnal. My siblings and I have been conducting a toilet paper drive in our neighborhood for We Are Family. During the summer, we volunteer with We Are Family to bring groceries to elderly people living in subsidized housing in DC. Right now, these seniors are struggling to get toilet paper especially and We Are Family is unable to find enough. We are so grateful for the several hundreds of rolls that our community has donated, but there is still a pressing need for more. If you have any toilet paper to spare, there is a donation box on the front stoop of 5121 Newport Ave, Bethesda, MD."

"My name is Dahlia Cedarbaum. Last weekend I baked a hundred cookies, this weekend I am baking 100 muffins. I am donating them to The Shepherd's Table, an organization that provides meals and other services to those experiencing hunger and homelessness. This is an extremely challenging time for the families in shelters due to total confinement. Now more than ever they need donations and support. I just ordered a 25 pound bag of flour and will continue to bake as many goods as possible for the next few weeks. This has been a great project for me because I have been able to help many less fortunate through doing what I love – baking."

"My name is Louis Cedarbaum. I had the opportunity to help The Shepherd's Table, an important organization that helps those in need. This help is needed even more during this pandemic because those in poverty are much more vulnerable. The Shepherd's Table created an Amazon wish list for items they need. I created a GoFundMe with a goal of \$1500, the total cost of their wish list. If you would like to donate, go to gofundme.com/j/support-the-shepherds-table."

Stella Szostak has been helping seniors and at-risk folks who may not wish to physically enter stores but need to buy groceries. She belongs to an organization called Teens Helping Seniors that connects teens with nearby neighbors who want help. It is a totally volunteer service and has recently been covered in the news: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/15/us/iyw-teens-delivery-service-for-the-elderly-trnd/index.html>.

Stella has started delivering for them. Once seniors are connected to her, they provide a list of items, preferred store, contact info to check on substitutions/questions while shopping and then work out repayment through check, cash or Venmo after shopping. The grocery bags are wiped down and left on the doorstep once the recipient has

been called 15 minutes prior to drop-off. Please note that in addition to regular grocery stores, Stella has a military ID card and can access the local exchanges and commissaries for those that also have access to these military stores.

Stay Safe and Healthy!



Dahlia creates delicious muffins for The Shepherd's Table.



Stella carries groceries to a Brookdale neighbor.

GEICO AS A NEIGHBOR

by Campbell Graeub (a 57-year resident of Brookdale)

Few would argue that GEICO isn't a good neighbor. Largely without friction, our community of single family homes gets along well with our commercial neighbor. There is no objection to our walking across their parking lot on the way to METRO or to shop, their employees generally respect our neighborhood parking restrictions, and the company typically responds promptly to a neighbor's concern. We like the well-maintained property and landscaping. GEICO's outreach goes even further; they support many community activities, e.g. public use of parking lot for events at Glen Echo or the tennis tournament, recycling days, antique car shows etc. While such efforts, and many more, go on almost unnoticed, they are appreciated as signs of being a good neighbor.

Not to be forgotten is that GEICO still owns the Brookdale Park property which they have leased to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. There are numerous conditions, and ever since the April 1979 lease agreement, all County Sector plans call for the Brookdale Park to remain undeveloped open space, no matter what GEICO might construct on its remaining property. It is said, good fences make good neighbors. In this case no fences have made good neighbors.

The history with GEICO is mixed, however. When in the mid 1950s they asked for a zoning change for their office building and a Special Exception to allow parking on residentially zoned property, the neighbors supported their proposal only after been given written assurances. The most important condition the neighbors demanded, which GEICO accepted, was that there be no road access from the Brookdale area to the parking lots. GEICO assured the community that they would never seek such access and only have driveways from the arterial roads, at the time Western Ave and Willard.

Perhaps the most difficult issue that the neighborhood faced was GEICO buying Brookdale homes, not just those abutting their property, but in the interior of our neighborhood. Despite their denial, we knew that there were at least 15 properties in their ownership. Residents feared a "block-busting" attack by GEICO to control the Brookdale triangle all the way to River Road. After years of tough talk and negotiations, that concern has been put to rest as GEICO has sold all the homes, except for five that directly abut their property. They deserve much credit for their responsiveness to neighborhood concerns.

Other issues have arisen from time to time — several that had to do with expansion, access and lighting on their parking lot. Again, our Brookdale community was vocal in expressing its views with good results. Partially in response to community concerns, Geico has changed its employee practices. For example, some of its workers arrive in van pools, many are on flex time, Geico leases over 140 parking spaces in the Bloomingdale's garage, and Geico

has a strong incentive program for employees to use public transportation.

While GEICO can be a good neighbor, current Brookdale residents should know that, over the years, the relationship have been mixed. For the last 60+ years, Brookdale residents have stood up to protect our neighborhood as we know it today, it didn't just happen. Untold time and effort went into this cause, and we must remember and be thankful to those who fought on our behalf.

Adrienne Nassau is currently Brookdale's official representative to GEICO. She and some other Board members meet with GEICO's Vice President several times a year to discuss community concerns. Feel free to contact Adrienne if any issues arise that you feel should be brought to GEICO's attention. You can reach her at anassau@icloud.com or at (301) 775-4075.

BOUNDARY PARK

by Bill McCloskey

The Montgomery County Department of Parks has reversed its plan to allow Boundary Park along Western Avenue between River Road and Park Avenue to revert to being an essentially unmowed "neighborhood conservation area."

Following submission of a petition organized by Park Avenue neighbor Wendy Smith and signed by 55 neighbors representing 32 Brookdale households, the property was mowed in mid-April. At the same time debris from the park that had started to encroach on the sidewalk on the Western Avenue side of the park was also removed.

"I spoke with the Park Operations Team and the Parks Leadership Team regarding your community's concern about the maintenance plan for Boundary Park Neighborhood Conservation Area. I'm pleased to report that we will revert the mowing plan back to the original cycle that the community prefers. We appreciate you bringing the community's concern to our attention," said Parks Customer Service Manager Shelby Bowers in a letter to Brookdale Citizens Association President Dick Podolske.

Smith and Podolske had communicated with the Parks Department and Montgomery County Councilmember Andrew Friedson to get the neighborhood concerns addressed.

"In short, we heard the collective concerns from our neighbors next to Boundary Neighborhood Conservation Area and will continue to mow at the park," Richard Kharman, M-NCPPC Southern Division Park Manager, told the Bugle in an email.

LITTLE FALLS WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Making A Difference In Your Neighborhood

by Sarah Morse, Executive Director, Little Falls Watershed Alliance

The Pandemic has greatly altered our activities and social distancing has become a new term. But environmental stewardship is still necessary and the Little Falls Watershed Alliance (LFWA) is still committed to our mission of protecting the natural spaces of the parks and neighborhoods in the Little Falls watershed. What we have noticed is that people are using the parks more and more, turning to trails for exercise and to enjoy the respite, comfort, and pleasures that nature has to offer us.

LFWA focuses on three core areas – advocacy, stewardship, and outreach/education. The heart of our work is our community work days for trash pick-up, invasion weed removal, and habitat restoration. Over 1,800 volunteers have joined up to pick up 40,000 pounds of trash in the twelve years since we were founded. We have restored three meadows and removed countless non-native invasive plants from the Little Falls Stream Valley Park and other areas. We are also very involved with the ongoing plans to create a new Willett Branch Stream Valley Park and monitoring the development at Westbard to ensure that it meets the highest of environmental standards.

While our work days are temporarily suspended, there are

issues that need our immediate attention. In March, we testified in Annapolis in favor of state funding for the Willett Branch Park, and we are happy to announce that the State of Maryland has granted Montgomery Parks a \$350,000 bond for the formation of the park.

We attended our first ever public meeting by conference call to learn about the plans for a senior living community to be built where the Westwood II center is. The developer will be dedicating land to the new Willett Branch Park and has designed a building with patios overlooking the park. Stormwater management on this property is especially important as any run-off will affect the new creek. We will be reviewing the final site plans as they are submitted.

Get Involved! Community work days will resume when the parks are open to public events again. Meanwhile, we have a list of fun things you can do in the park as individuals on our website, www.LFWA.org. We are also always looking for board members. Contact Brookdale resident Mikel Moore at Mikel@lfwa.org, or Sarah Morse, at stormwater@lfwa.org if you are interested in hearing about our board.

GEICO'S NEW WEDDING CHAPEL

by Adrienne Nassau

In response to complaints by Brookdale neighbors, GEICO replaced their smoking shack with an attractive new gazebo located closer to the building. This enables better monitoring by GEICO's guards.

On a rare, sunny afternoon in April, I walked past the gazebo just in time to hear "I now pronounce you husband and wife." Looking up, I saw a minister standing in front of a bride in a white gown and a groom dressed for the occasion. The gazebo was decorated with strings of flowers, there were a couple of socially distanced friends standing outside, a guitar player emerged from the bushes with a song, and the nearby picnic table was filled with wedding treats.

It turned out that the couple, who live in one of the nearby high rise buildings, had planned a destination wedding. The date was set, the license was in hand, and the wedding had to be cancelled due to the virus. Rather than delay their wedding day, they decided to go ahead and saw the perfect venue – the new GEICO gazebo.

It was a glorious and memorable occasion, and the couple will have a wonderful memory to tell to their children and grandchildren.



A spontaneous wedding celebration during the Covid lockdown.

SIGNS OF COVID-19 IN BROOKDALE



Locked up tight -- the playground is closed until further notice!



A well-deserved sign to all those who serve the neighborhood.



Even our permanent policeman on South Park wears a mask!

Many brookdale folks took to the sewing machine!



Alissa Webel made 'softies' and many made masks during Covid-19.



REAL ESTATE

by Federico P. Glücksmann

Transactions for Brookdale/Wohlshire/Orcharddale December 2019 - May 2020

Address	Sold/Active	Presale/List Price/ Sold Price	BR	FB	HB	Sq. Feet	Acres
5118 Saratoga Ave	Active	\$1,850,000/\$1,850,000	7	5	1	6,450	0.16
5204 Saratoga Ave	Active	\$1,949,900/\$1,899,000	5	4	1	4,887	0.13
5103 Westport	Closed	\$1,100,000/\$1,050,000	4	2	0	2,948	0.43
4817 Park Ave	Closed	\$1,575,000/\$1,545,500	5	4	1	3,990	0.12
5306 Sherrill Ave	Closed	\$1,949,900/\$1,950,000	5	4	1	4,500	0.11
4628 River Road	Closed	\$899,000/\$952,600	3	2	0	1,900	0.12
4709 River Road	Closed	\$873,500/\$847,000	4	3	0	1,681	0.19

Address	Rented/ Active	List Price/ Rented Price	BR	FB	HB	Sq. Feet	
5303 Baltimore Ave	Active	\$4,500	4	3	1	1,740	
5308 Baltimore Ave	Closed	\$3,050	2	2	0	1,169	
5203 Saratoga Ave	Closed	\$3,200	3	2	2	1,676	
4630 River Road	Closed	\$3,650	4	2	1	1,844	
5106 Keokuk St	Closed	\$5,300	5	5	1	3,046	

Information provided by Federico P. Glücksmann, a Real Estate Agent with Coldwell Banker - Bethesda. If you have any further questions about this information, please feel free to contact Federico at (202) 333-6100 or (202) 746-9336.

Calling all Real Estate Agents residing in Brookdale, Wohlshire or Orcharddale! 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!

Please consider paying your
2020 Association dues
of \$40 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 envelope.

Help us meet our goal!

THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR DUES SUPPORT!

by Heather Paul

In these hard days it is a pleasure to know that Brookdale residents are supportive of one another -- and our organization! When we return to closer interaction in the future, hopefully even more of us will be at our block parties, Brookdale-at-Home events, the July 4th parade and other get-togethers to confirm that we are surviving and thriving as a community.

You are welcome to check with Heather Paul on your dues status for 2020 (hpaul6088@gmail.com). Otherwise, please use the enclosed envelope in the Bugle or go online to pay dues at www.brookdalecitizens.org.

Thank you again!

NEOLOGISMS

from the *Washington Post*

Once again *The Washington Post* has published the winning submissions to its yearly neologism contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternative meanings for common words.

The winners are:

1. Coffee (n.), the person upon whom one coughs.
2. Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.
3. Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.
5. Willy-nilly (adj.), impotent.
6. Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.
7. Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.
8. Gargoyle(n.), olive-flavoured mouthwash.
9. Flatulence (n.), emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.
10. Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.
11. Testicle (n.), a humorous question on an exam.
12. Rectitude (n.), the formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.
13. Pokemon (n.), a Rastafarian proctologist.
14. Oyster (n.), a person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.
15. Frisbeetarianism (n.), (back by popular demand): The belief that, when you die, your soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.
16. Circumvent (n.), an opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men.

CLASSIFIEDS

Online Tutor Available

Arvin Vohra, a Brown University graduate with 19 years of tutoring experience, offers online group classes and tutoring for the SAT, academics, and math. Please check out the website, www.VohraMethod.com.

Local Home Repair Services

Being home bound might be calling attention to needed small or medium size repairs around the house. Jesse Zhang is available on Cortland Road to stop by and offer a free assessment. He and family have been diligent about practicing all guidelines for COVID-19 prevention. Local references available. (Contact: jczhangchina@yahoo.com or call 202-853-4519).

BROOKDALE OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021

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for each candidate is accessible in the Spring (April 2019) Bugle. Federico's is provided below:

Federico Glücksmann has over 16 years of experience as a residential real estate agent in Washington, D.C. and Montgomery County. As a 25-year resident in the area and a top-producing residential sales professional, he has amassed an extensive knowledge of the market and a keen

CONTRATULATIONS TO ALL BROOKDALE GRADUATES!

Jake Morton will be graduating from B-CC this spring and will be starting as a freshman at the University of Virginia in the fall. He is the son of Jack and Cynthia Morton of Overbrook Road.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF JAPANESE MAPLES

by Noa Fritschie

(Noa is 11 and a rising 7th-grader at Westland Middle School.)

Have you ever seen a beautiful red tree, with maple-like leaves? If so, you were probably looking at a Japanese Maple. A tree native to Japan, Korea, China, eastern Mongolia, and southeast Russia, according to the [U.S. National Plant Germplasm System website](https://npgsweb.ars-grin.gov/gringlobal/taxonomydetail.aspx?id=1187) (<https://npgsweb.ars-grin.gov/gringlobal/taxonomydetail.aspx?id=1187>).

These special trees were first introduced to England, as a single specimen in 1820. As paraphrased from, Iron Tree Services, "Many different species of Japanese maple are chosen and grown around the world, for their variety of forms, leaf shapes, and colors."

Now, one more question to leave you with. Or rather an activity. Now that you know what these trees look like, how many can you spot? I was quite surprised at how many trees I could find on 49th & 48th street on the other side of Western. There are many in Brookdale too.



One of the many Red Maples that adorn Brookdale.

understanding of what makes each community unique. Most importantly, he believes he has a strong intuition and sensitivity when it comes to the needs of his clients.

Before living in Washington, he lived in: Buenos Aires, Los Angeles, Detroit, Paris, and London. His wife, Jennifer, runs a large non-profit. They live in Bethesda with their 12-year-old son, their Goldendoodle and Cockapoo.