

Brookdale *bugle*

ESTABLISHED 1938

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Dick Podolske

Dear Brookdale Residents,

We hope you all are coping reasonably well in enduring the Corona Virus.

As you know, we had no Spring Party nor a 4th of July event due to the Corona Virus. Nevertheless, our association has been active on a number of fronts:

Welcome to Brookdale 2020

Thanks to the hard work of Amy and Paul Rispin, we have an updated version of the Welcome to Brookdale document which is being distributed with the current *Bugle*.

BROOKDALE PORCH FEST

by Abner Oakes

It was a glorious fall day for Brookdale's first annual Porch Fest, which took place on Saturday, October 17. Porch Fests happen all over the U.S., as a town or neighborhood recruits local musicians to play for their neighbors on their porches, patios, and front lawns. Nearby Porch Fests include Takoma Porch, Porch Fest DC, and the Adams Morgan Porch Fest. Well, now we can add Brookdale's Porch Fest to that list.



Paul Salfi and his jazz quartet.

Porch Fest

Due to the creative work of Abner Oakes, we held a very well-attended Porch Fest that will be, hopefully, only the first of several such events. See separate article by Mr. Oakes.

Halloween Festivities

We held three Halloween events including, a parade, an art contest, and a spooky home contest. There was a very good turnout at Brookdale Park and the parade with well-costumed participants. (See the separate articles and photos.)

Amy Rispin Presentation

Amy Rispin, our secretary and resident historian, will

continued on page 7

There were seven groups that added to the listening delight, starting with high school junior Amaya Martinez at 12:30 p.m. that day singing and doing an original guitar jam and ending the day at 4:45 p.m. with a raucous bunch of songs from The 1519, a garage band with three neighbors in it, Russell Sturm, Rich Lucas, and Robert Moore. Here is what the schedule for the day looked like:

- 12:30 pm, 5206 Keokuk, Amaya Martinez
(guitar and singing)
- 1:15 pm, 4807 Dover Court, John Kneip
(guitar and singing)
- 2:55 pm, 4807 Dover Court, Paul Salfi and his quartet
(jazz)
- 3:30 pm, 4509 Dalton, Allison Fultz
(piano - classical and ragtime)
- 4:00 pm, 4516 Cortland, Adrienne Nassau
(piano quartet - classical)
- 4:20 pm, 4807 Dover Court, Finn Thornton and JD Gorman
(guitar and bass)
- 4:45 pm, 5005 Brookdale Road, The 1519
(garage band)

With their masks on and portable chairs in hand, neighbors bounced around both sides of Brookdale, settling in on lawns and the neighborhood's quiet streets to listen to jazz, Scott Joplin, classical music, and covers of songs by Stevie Nicks and the Smashing Pumpkins. While folks had

continued on page 8

HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES

by Sibyl Erdman

The Parade

What a fun afternoon! The rain stopped and the sun came out to shine of our parade! Kids and moms, dads, and neighbors all wound through the streets of Brookdale North clad in costumes of all types – scary, bloody, beautiful, historic, colorful, and animals of all persuasions. Great imaginations and creativity galore were exhibited throughout. The kids (and some kids at heart) loved the candy many of the houses had laid out on tables and buckets en route and some even doled out goodies for the kids

via long plastic tubes. At the end of the parade, back at the Park, baskets of bagged candy awaited each and every child, prizes were given out for the best costumes and artwork, and kids were happy to be with friends they hadn't seen for a while. A big thanks goes out to Heather Paul and helper LiAng for organizing the parade and candy bags! And thanks to all the neighbors who contributed the treats for the trick-or-treaters, and photographers for all the great photos for the *Bugle*!



HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES (continued)

The Costume Contest

Creativity galore! There were some great costumes – memorable people like Annie and Elvis wandered our streets: animals of all varieties, astronauts, witches, fairies, devils, super heroes, and very scary monsters. The prize winners are in order below.



The Spooky House Contest

There were so many great decorations adorning neighbors' houses it was hard to choose, but the Vice Presidents of the BCA did a great job of judging the various houses and settled on the following listed below. Two homes in North Brookdale out-spooked themselves this year and tied the first-place.

North Brookdale: Sanne/Rivlin house: 5203 Westport Road and Sinks/Scanlon house: 4611 Merivale Road

South Brookdale: Snyder/Eichhorn house, 4710 Dover Court

Park-Newport: Reilly/Connors house: 4842 Park Avenue

Orchardale: Niman house: 5327 Willard Avenue

Wohlshire: Taylor house: 5013 Westport Road

Many thanks to all of those who spent much time and effort (and fun) decorating your houses in eerie and ghostly regalia. Everyone deserves a big hand for making Brookdale reap the spirit of Halloween.

Below are some elements of the spooks at the first place winner's homes.



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, except in the year of Covid-19, 2020 and perhaps 2021.

Visit Brookdale online at www.brookdalecitizens.org.

The deadline to submit articles, notices, and ads for the Spring issue of the *Brookdale Bugle* will be announced via the listserv and our Brookdale website in early March.

LEARNING DURING COVID-19

by Arvin Vohra

Several years ago, I moved my education business completely online. This year, millions of families and teachers have moved to online learning. Here are a few things we discovered over the last few years that can help you get the most out of online learning.

1. A student's workspace matters much more than most people realize. A student who is doing class from a couch or bed isn't going to get much out of online learning. A non-serious workspace encourages a vacation mindset, not an intense, learning mindset.

* I recommend a quiet room with a desk or dining height table. A standard height table makes it easy to take notes, write out math steps, and the like. A coffee table doesn't. Try writing a few pages of notes sitting on a couch with the notebook on the coffee table, and you'll see what I mean.

2. Goals, not chores. If a student is in a physical school for 8 hours, he will probably end up learning something. A student at home might not. It is easy for weeks to go by with essentially no learning happening, with a catastrophic test grade the first warning sign.

* Instead of treating education like a daily chore, treat it like training for the championship. Some students even like to write the specific goal down and put it on their wall, as a constant reminder about what they are training for.

Set clear, external, measurable goals. For example, the goal might be to get above 750 on an SAT subject test, or to get a 5 on a particular AP exam.

3. Unmonitored education is a fantasy. Someone needs to be watching the student. If that's not the teacher, then it has to be the parent. That monitoring has to be savvy and skeptical. As a simple example, we require all students to have their heads and shoulders on camera. I know that if I can't see a student's mouth, that student is almost certainly chatting with a friend or sibling.

* Even the most well-meaning students can get pulled into distractions. With Netflix, Prime Video, Hulu, and YouTube just a few clicks away, it's just too easy for an unmonitored student to get distracted.

Don't rely on parental controls. Almost every student knows how to get around them.

4. Music is a distraction, not a way to focus. While playing music before studying can help students get into a relaxed,

continued on page 6

SHOEMAKER CEMETERY UPDATE

The cemetery issue remains before the court. The Circuit Court issued a ruling in early 2020 that found in favor of the developer. The Shoemaker descendants believe there were serious errors of law and fact in the judge's ruling and appealed the decision to the Court of Special Appeals, the first step in the appeals process. For several months further action by the courts was delayed due to Covid-19 concerns

HAIKU FOR COVID-19

by Li Ang Zhang

the days are zooming
just like my online schooling
better in class, learning



THE JUNIOR ART CONTEST

Junior artists were asked to bring their artwork to Brookdale Park on Halloween where it would be judged for the top three submissions. All four submissions won prizes.



BROOKDALE-ON-ZOOM

Nov. 19, 7:30 pm –
Amy Rispin discusses “The History of River Road in Black and White”

Amy Rispin will hold a Zoom session on November 19 at 7:30 p.m. Did you know that before the Civil War several large plantations and farms had access to River Road near present day Brookdale? River Road was a major route for transporting tobacco to the Port of Georgetown for marketing in Scotland. Immediately after that war, the Westbard area became an early black settlement called Graysville. The Moses Cemetery near Westbard Tower and the Macedonia Church on the hill at Clipper Lane are remnants of that community. The church holds weekly demonstrations to save the cemetery.

Dec. 10, 7:00 pm –
Deborah Kalb's Book Presentation.

Local children's book author Deborah Kalb will present her latest children's book entitled *Thomas Jefferson and the Return of the Magic Hat*, the third in the her series written for middle grade kids. It's a sequel to her two previous children's books, *George Washington and the Magic Hat* and *John Adams and the Magic Bobblehead*. Appropriate for age 8-12 or so, these novels focus on a group of kids who live in a Brookdale-like neighborhood and have magical time travel adventures with the early presidents, while also dealing with 21st century concerns like friendship and blended families. Deborah looks forward to seeing her neighbors at the book talk!

BROOKDALE'S GROUPS-IO

by Paul Rispin

We have been using Groups.io since May and most people have gotten used to it. However, a number of questions have popped up and to answer them we are giving a brief review of how to use the system and of how to get help online.

Groups.io is a very powerful but complicated application that was brought in to replace the Yahoo listserv. If you already had a Groups.io account, your Brookdale Citizens Association has been added to it (mostly in May). If you are not in the system yet, the best way to join is to send me an email at rispinp@rcn.com. I will need your name, email address, and home address - the name is how you will appear in the messages.

Our I.D. is brookdalecitizensassociation@groups.io. A good way to get in is to go to groups.io and enter the email address and password you use for your account. You will see a white on blue header at the top, with 'Help' and your name at the right. This banner will appear on all subsequent pages.

'Help' gives access to the Members Manual, which is a detailed description of the program and how to use it. There is also a set of 'Frequently Asked Questions' for further information.

Clicking your name gives access to your 'Account'

THANKS AGAIN BROOKDALE, FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

by Heather Paul, Treasurer, BCA

Over these many months we have biked or walked our streets with children, dogs or simply thoughts of more normal days. Despite the worry and uncertainty, BCA has tried hard to add some spirit, fun, intellectual enrichment and conduct official business — all in masks and social distance!

Nearly 40% of residents have paid dues and made possible some key events. With this *Bugle* issue, you are receiving our updated Welcome to Brookdale, an overview that Amy and Paul Rispin have written—and re-written—over the years. They trace our history and document current services, all in all tracing the ties that bind this community.

We had a great first Fall "Porch Fest", a special Halloween parade and planned ZOOM At-Home events. We improved our safety signage and are working with Friendship Heights groups on development issues.

Please consider paying dues of \$40 for the end of 2020 or for the new year. You can pay online on our website or by check, using the enclosed envelope. You can always check with me on your dues status as well.

So, we will "keep on keeping on" and be grateful for family, friends and strong neighborhoods!

information. Here you can change your email address and/or password or choose to use your Facebook or Google log-ins. The second item, 'Logout' is used to completely leave your groups.io session. If you simply close the Groups window, your account persists on your computer and the 'Logout' command allows a second user to login on that computer, which would otherwise be blocked.

Below the blue banner and on the left is a column 11 addresses that can be clicked to move through the system.

- Home is the opening screen for the Brookdale group.
- Subscription allows you to choose email delivery options.
- Messages List all messages accessible you and allows you to search through them.
- Hashtags. Allows groupings of messages, e.g. for sale, recommendations, help etc.
- New Topic. If you want to send a completely new message (not part of an ongoing series) you must use this command. The new topic is the subject of your message.
- The remaining 6 addresses are not much used yet.

I will try to answer any questions you have and will put them in the *Bugle* if needed.

CELEBRATING LONG-TIME RESIDENTS OF BROOKDALE: JOY AND CAMPBELL GRAEUB

by Cynthia Morton

Joy and Campbell Graeub moved to Brookdale shortly before Halloween in 1963, 57 years ago. What brought them to the neighborhood still compels many of us to come – the good reputation of Westbrook Elementary School, access to transportation, and a friendly neighborhood. Those aspects of the neighborhood have endured but the Graeubs certainly have seen some changes to Brookdale as well. They moved into their Westport home and raised two children who still live in the area. They have seen the threat of closure of Westbrook Elementary due to low enrollment and fought to keep it open. They told the story of renting a bus to carry parents and children to the nighttime hearing to protest the closure of this very dear school. Now the neighborhood flourishes with families and the school has had at least two renovations. They recalled fondly when River Road was just a two lane road and children from the North side of Brookdale could cross River Road to walk to Westbrook with the help of Mrs. Fulmer, the crossing guard.

Campbell served as President of Brookdale Citizens' Association from 1965 to 67 and saw the beginning of the newsletter. At this time the Brookdale Park was a mere wooded area and affectionately called "the forest." Campbell said it's so important to get involved and not leave it to others.

Through his community work he initially dealt with GEICO when it purchased 25 homes in the neighborhood. Campbell and others later worked to maintain GEICO's agreement to a green buffer for Brookdale. He also was president of the Little Falls Swimming Club and with Joy, have been active members of the pool. They fondly remembered attending social events, and their children and grandchildren have also been active members of the LFSC.

In parting remarks, Campbell and Joy said that they felt the widening of River Road many years ago did further divide the neighborhood. They are thrilled at the work of the current Board over these last years to alternate the social gatherings on either side of the neighborhood. After 57 years, they have seen changes but what hasn't changed is that the neighborhood is still friendly, and they attribute this in part to the way Cooper Lightbown designed and built the Brookdale homes. The Graeubs aren't going far as they are moving just a few miles away to Maplewood Park Place on Old Georgetown Road. They said they will be back to visit and perhaps to attend Porch Fest 2021. Their home will go on the market later. Meanwhile, we wish them much happiness in their new surroundings and look forward to seeing them around the 'hood' occasionally.

FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE

by Manuel Ochoa and Adrienne Nassau

The BCA board continues to be concerned about continued business closures in Friendship Heights, including Pain Quotidian, Peet's, PF Chang's, and Lord & Taylor among others. All of us want Friendship Heights to be a vibrant community with choices for stores and restaurants.

Thus far, we have met with Montgomery Council member Friedson, who pointed out that the area needs to transition from a "destination" shopping area to a "place based" area. He also noted the need to coordinate with DC officials, including Mary Cheh of the DC council. Manuel Ochoa, Vice President for Orcharddale, expressed our concern to the Village of Friendship Heights Council meeting. Adrienne Nassau, BCA board member, attended the Citizens Coordinating Committee of Friendship Heights (CCCFH) meeting on October 21. Although they agreed that business closures were concerning, CCCFH members were more worried about increased density caused by potential redevelopment. The Brookdale board is interested in helping to reposition Friendship Heights as both a regional and a local destination. One possible solution is reconsideration of a Business Improvement District (BID). Several years ago, a formal BID was considered by property owners, however, action to establish this did not move forward. One challenge is the multi-jurisdictional nature of the business district requiring agreement between the District and Montgomery County. A practical solution is a place-based or district manager initially funded by the county to bring commercial property owners, as well as citizens, together.

The manager could come up with short term tasks that could be taken to promote the area. Please contact Manuel or Adrienne if you have comments.

LEARNING DURING COVID-19

continued from page 4.

focused mindset, playing music while studying is a cognitive distraction. Cognitive tasks, including mathematical problem solving, are more difficult with music. Listening to a teacher is obviously impossible while listening to music.

* If a student is having trouble focusing, it's best to take a break for a few minutes, and then come back and give your work your full concentration.

5. Learn from homeschoolers. Even if you're not officially homeschooling, anyone doing remote education can benefit from the experience of homeschooling families. They've been doing this for decades, often with fairly tight budgets. Homeschooling families have spent a lot of time figuring out how to solve the problems most families are now facing for the first time: how to keep a child on track at home, how to maintain academic rigor in a chaotic environment, and how to make sure that your child doesn't fall behind.

Arvin Vohra is the founder of Vohra Method, an online SAT and academic prep company.

REAL ESTATE

by Tamar Nicholson

Transactions for Brookdale/Wohlshire/Orcharddale

May 2020 – November 5, 2020

Address	Sold/Active	List Price/Sold Price	BR	FB	HB	Acres	Age	DOM	Closing Date
4610 Overbrook Rd	Sold	\$887,250	3	2	1	0.21	84	38	05/15/20
5025 Brookdale Rd	Sold	\$999,000/\$1,075,000	3	2	0	0.14	84	5	06/30/20
5204 Saratoga Ave	Sold	\$1,949,000/\$1,850,000	5	4	1	0.13	0	106	07/07/20
5317 Willard Ave	Sold	\$1,450,000/\$1,450,000	4	3	1	0.11	81	0	07/24/20
4625 River Road	Sold	\$895,000/\$895,000	3	2	1	0.18	82	5	07/30/20
5005 Westport Rd	Expired	\$949,900 (not sold)	3	2	1	0.15	66	\$38	09/30/20
4712 Dover Rd	Pending	\$949,000 (final price not yet posted)	3	2	1	0.12	83	11	10/11/20
4607 Overbrook Rd	Active	\$1,095,000/\$1,095,000	3	2	1	0.12	82	17	10/20/20

Address	Rented/Active	List Price/Rented Price	BR	FB	HB	Acres	Age	DOM	Closing Date
5303 Baltimore Ave	Rented	\$3500/\$3,050	2	2	0		73	79	05/09/20
5308 Baltimore Ave	Rented	\$4,500/\$4500	4	3	1		73	20	05/28/20
4722 Merivale Rd	Rented	\$6,250/\$6,600	5	3	1		70	7	07/05/20
5013 Brookdale Rd	Rented	\$7,250/\$7,500	6	4	1		77	9	08/01/20
4606 Harrison St	Rented	\$4800/\$5,040	3	2	1		86	20	08/01/20
4627 River Rd	Expired	\$3,475 (not rented)	3	2	0		82	17	09/03/20

Information provided by Tamar Y. Nicolson, a Real Estate Agent with EXP Realty, LLC. If you have any questions about this information, please contact Tamar at Tamar@CallTamarToday.com or 240-350-4060. Tamar has lived in the neighborhood with her family on Merivale Road since 1998.

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!

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

continued from cover

present via Zoom session entitled "The History of River Road in Black and White" at 7:30 pm on Thursday, November 19th. (See the details elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Deborah Kalb Presentation

Deborah will present her new children's book entitled *Thomas Jefferson and the Return of the Magic Hat* at 7pm via Zoom on December 10th. A reminder will be sent out on the listserv.

Commercial Development

Manuel Ochoa and Adrienne Nassau have been active in contacting local representatives with respect to addressing the commercial decline adjacent to our neighborhood. Stay tuned. (See included report.)

More Trees Installed in the Boundary Park

The Montgomery County Parks Department will be planting 3 trees in new locations on the grounds of the Park. It has also replaced some trees that have died on the line adjacent to Western Avenue and will cleaned up the sidewalk on Western Avenue.

GEICO

Adrienne Nassau has been successful in getting GEICO to dig out the drainage canal at the end of Westport, and she is in frequent communication with GEICO on boundary maintenance and security.

Speed Warning Signs

We have installed "slow - children at play" signs on Harrison/Murray and have two more signs and a little green man that could be installed at additional locations in Brookdale upon request.

Beside these activities, we remain open to suggestions on how the Brookdale Citizens' Association can be of further service to our community.

Warm regards and stay safe,

Richard Podolske

BROOKDALE PORCH FEST

continued from cover

their masks on, it was obvious that people were smiling.

The 2021 version of Brookdale's annual Porch Fest will happen on October 16. And look for other neighborhood music events this spring, as we emerge from our Covid winter. If you'd like to perform in the next Porch Fest, get in touch with Abner directly at aoakes4@gmail.com.

(P.S. A huge thank you goes to Abner for organizing this fun, foot-tapping event. We look forward to more and hope we can inspire others to participate too! Adults and kids alike enjoyed the variety of talent within the Brookdale community. A shout out goes to all those musicians who made our afternoon so enjoyable and memorable.)



PASSING

Sarah Jean Carstens peacefully passed away September 27, 2020 in Washington, DC. She died from acute leukemia. Sarah and her family moved to Brookdale in 1976. She could often be seen walking through the neighborhood.

Sarah grew up in Pennsylvania and Washington, where she graduated from Western High School, studied art at the Corcoran, worked as an executive assistant, and met Reimer, her German-born husband of 53 years. They lived in Paris, Nairobi, and Washington during his career with the IMF.

A very kind and caring person, Sarah loved to paint, travel, read, garden, cook, watch movies, and spend time with family at a summer home in Cape May, NJ.

She is survived by her husband, Reimer O. Carstens, of Chevy Chase, MD, son Karl, also of Chevy Chase, and daughter, Karen, of Washington, DC.

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.

CLASSIFIEDS

French Academic Tutoring and Language Assistance

Hello, my name is Nicolas Wellington. I live in Brookdale and am offering to assist students with French classwork/homework or anyone seeking to improve their French conversational skills.

My preference is to work within your child's existing school curriculum and we can follow the school's textbook. I can assist with homework and give in-depth explanations, as well as converse with your child to help with pronunciation. As an alternative, I can suggest a different method of instruction or am open to simply helping with ordinary French conversation skills, including vocabulary and pronunciation.

I am:

- A rising Junior at the French International School (Lycee Rochambeau)
- Completely fluent in French and in English
- Available Tuesday and Thursday afternoons as well as weekends
- Open to meeting in person (outside and at an acceptable distance) or via Zoom/Skype sessions

address: 5100 Westport Road
email: npw0804@gmail.com
phone #: (202) 751-7370