

# Brookdale *bugle*

ESTABLISHED 1938

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Dick Podolske

Dear Brookdale Residents,

Despite the continuing challenges and uncertainties of COVID-19, the Board of the Brookdale Citizens Association continues to work in the best interest of its residents with hopes for a healthy upcoming year.

**New Board Members** - we are pleased to announce that Lisa Clark is the new editor of the Bugle, and Darcy King-Leatham is our new Board Secretary.

**Winter Activities** - celebrating the holiday season, Brookdale joined surrounding neighborhoods and participated in Luminaria 2021 on December 5th, lighting yards and lining streets with luminarias. Enhancing the evening, Stacy Yochum and a group of Brookdale residents strolled street to street singing Christmas carols. We hope candle-lighting and caroling will become an annual tradition.

**Upcoming Brookdale Events** - In-person and Zoom dates when Larry Broadwell will present his two new hiking books, and Bill Grigg will talk on his latest novel entitled When Intimacy Can Kill will be announced soon.

**Boundary Park Improvements** - Montgomery County Parks has agreed to plant seven trees in specified locations and address invasive species within Boundary Park immediately north of Western Avenue. County representatives met with affected neighbors and reached a consensus on the types of trees and locations. Additionally, MoCo has agreed to mow parts of the park on Western Avenue.

**Monitoring Commercial and Residential Development Affecting Brookdale** - monitoring Montgomery County planning activities that may impact our area continues, including proposals for higher residential density within Brookdale and commercial development bordering our community.

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## REMEMBERING AMY RISPIN

A long-time resident of Brookdale, Amy Rispin passed away on Valentine's Day, exactly 53 years after she met her husband, Paul, on Valentine's Day, 1969. Paul and their two children, Sarah and Peter, were at her side.

Amy did everything with passion and advocacy – for her family, her community and the world at large. With a doctorate in theoretical physics, Amy spent much of her career as a Senior Scientist at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Inspired by Rachel Carson, she worked on ridding the world of pesticides and other toxins. In her later years, Brookdale knew her best as the local historian who gave neighborhood tours and lectures on the 19th ce. origins of the Macedonia Baptist Church, its River Road founding by formerly enslaved people, and the necessity to preserve its hallowed cemetery. Amy's interests were broad and deep. She was instrumental in helping the Watershed Alliance and made time for a long-time commitment as a docent at the Textile Museum. Serving on the Brookdale Citizens Association Board, Amy and Paul were the creators of the first and updated Brookdale Directory on which we all rely.

Amy Rispin indeed lived a full and meaningful life. She will be sorely missed, yet remains an inspiration to us all.



## GOODBYE

by Joy and Campbell Graeub

After calling Brookdale our home for 57 years it was a very difficult decision to leave. It was where we raised our family, made many friends, and established life-long roots. The change brings back many memories, which some “newcomers” may like to know.

When we moved to Brookdale in 1963, the upper part of Merivale Road was solidly covered by a line of beautiful old elm trees – now all gone. GEICO was at the end of building its headquarters, their workers were parking their cars all over Brookdale. That is when we got the County to impose parking restrictions. We knew the Brookdale Park area as the “forest” where we tried to keep our kids from going. Most of the homes were occupied by the original owners, our kids were 2 of only a handful of others at their ages. Westport Road ended at Merivale Road, before it was extended to serve the new homes being built in Wolshire. Mrs. Foellmer was the crossing guard at Baltimore Avenue and River Road to stop the traffic for school children to cross on the way to Westbrook Elementary.

Other memories take us back when the County was going to close and tear down Westbrook Elementary School. The

neighborhood rallied. We hired a bus from DC Transit to take our youngsters dressed in Dr. Denton PJs to a Board of Education meeting campaigning to keep the school open – with much success.

Another big victory for us was when GEICO tried to obtain County approval to build a multi-story garage on the now Brookdale Park site, because they “needed more space to park.” After months of pressure the County denied it. Only after that did we learn that GEICO had an offer by a New York department store to build a huge store on their parking lot on Western Avenue.

On the sight of the Friendship Heights Metro bus station was a Howard Johnson’s restaurant. Where there is now The Shops at Wisconsin Place, there was the first suburban location of Woodward & Lothrop (Woodie’s), the long-gone department store. At the Neiman Marcus site was a gas station and the popular Silver Fox restaurant and jazz club.

Yes, memories are plenty. The best are those of the many great neighbors with whom we still have close contact – too many to mention. All we can say is the neighborliness continues to be getting stronger. Congratulations!

With fond memories – Joy and Campbell Graeub

## THE CALL FOR ELECTRIC LEAF BLOWERS

by Darcy King-Leatham

In an op-ed piece in the last edition of the Bugle, I expressed my consternation about the effects of gas-powered leaf blowers on us and the environment (noise, gas emissions and climate change). Aware that some readers feel likewise, I am providing an update. On March 15, 2022 County Executive Elrich introduced amendments to MC Code Chapter 31B to “phase out the sale of handheld and backpack combustion engine-powered leaf blowers and vacuums beginning six months from enactment, and their use twelve months from enactment.”

For a number of companies that provide gas-free yard services, go to: <http://townofchevy Chase.org/431/Quiet-and-Clean-Landscapers>.

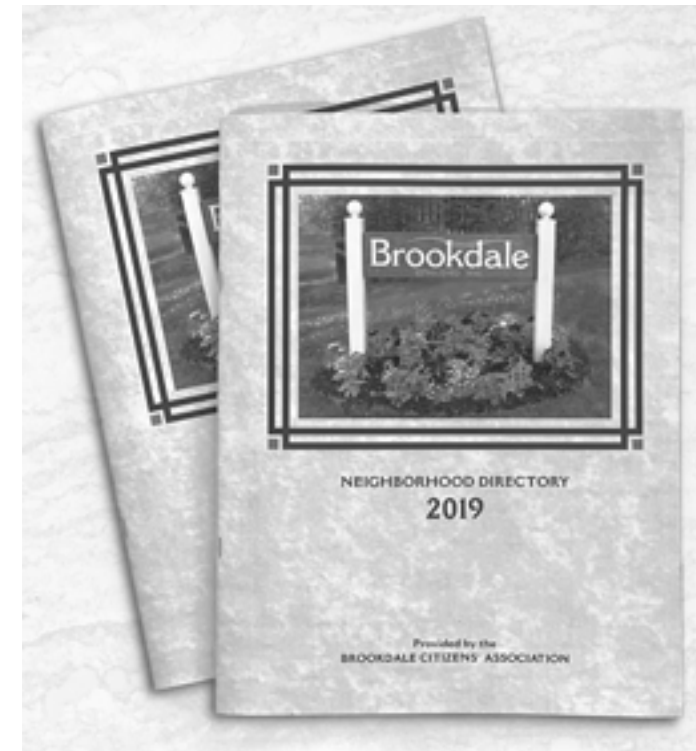
## DUES AND DONT’S

Don’t worry! There is still LOTS of time to remember your 2022 Brookdale dues of \$40. As usual, an envelope still accompanies this Bugle, as does the opportunity to pay on-line at our website of [www.brookdalecitizens.org](http://www.brookdalecitizens.org).

For those who already have paid for 2022, we thank you very much. Our activities will likely start to get in high gear for the Spring and, hopefully, for a true return to a post-pandemic normalcy. This has been a challenging two years for all our families, especially our children.

Your dues certainly give us confidence that Brookdale will “keep on carrying on.”

## UPDATING THE BROOKDALE NEIGHBORHOOD DIRECTORY



The Brookdale Directory has been an invaluable resource as the only repository of contact information for all Brookdale residents willing to be included. Initially created in 2016 and updated in 2019, we are ready for a 2022 version. In the past, every Brookdale household has received a copy (for privacy sake, this document is not on our website), and we will do that again once updated. In the next few months, we will be seeking all changes and additions. When we’ve determined a plan to capture this information, we will be reaching out to everyone to ensure that we have as exhaustive, accurate and useful a contact list as possible. Thanks in advance for your help!

## FREE TREES PROVIDED AND PLANTED BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County is offering to plant shade trees for Free. There are two programs. If you want a new tree on your property log into [treemontgomery.org](http://treemontgomery.org) and fill out the provided form. If you want a tree planted on the street right-of-way in front of your house type “Montgomery County division of highway services street tree program” and fill out the form. If you want assistance call 240-777-0311. According to these sites there is likely to be a several months wait before the requested trees are planted.

## SPRING INTO PICKLEBALL!

by David Lewis

POP - POP - POP - POP

If you have ventured by a tennis court or a rec center lately you might have heard that sound – it’s not tennis balls being hit, but Pickleballs.

What is Pickleball? It’s America’s fastest growing game – a cross between tennis, badminton, ping pong and paddle ball that is played on a 20x44 foot court with a net and paddles and a hard plastic wiffle ball with holes.

Pickleball is a game most anyone can play (and I mean anyone – 5 to 85!) after just a little instruction. And if you have played any racquet sport before you, will find it very easy to learn and play. It can be played both in doubles and singles, but most of the time you will find people playing doubles. It’s played inside and out. Because the court is small, it’s not too hard to cover; and unlike tennis, the serve isn’t too hard to master. While easy to learn, it can still be highly competitive and it is played professionally as well.

There’s a lot to like in this growing sport. It provides a nice bit of exercise but doesn’t require years of lessons, and is inexpensive to jump into (good paddles start at under \$50). It’s also a great social event – when you play at rec centers the play is generally round robin, and you get to meet a whole lot of nice people! We had a Holiday party last December (pre-Omicron) for our pickle friends and we realized that 29 out of 30 guests were people we didn’t know 18 months ago!

If you haven’t seen the game being played just do a search under “Pickleball” on Youtube and a million videos will show up.

We have lots of places to play near Brookdale – there are indoor courts at the Wisconsin Place Rec center and the Lawton Rec center, indoor and outdoor courts at the Palisades Rec center in DC, outdoor courts at the Bethesda Y. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions at: [Davidmlewis46@gmail.com](mailto:Davidmlewis46@gmail.com).

## LUMINARIA 2021

by Lisa Clark

Luminarias (Spanish for “small bonfires”) lit up the streets and courts of Brookdale on the evening of December 5, 2021. And what a beautiful event it turned into, with carolers making a joyful noise in Brookdale North at the same time. Completely voluntary, the neighborhood saw increased participation on both sides of River Road. In fact, every single home on Overbrook Rd had paper bags with twinkling lights in front of it! There was speculation that the street could be seen from space. Families, couples, dogs and their humans braved the chilly night air to stroll and greet neighbors. A popular gathering spot for many was in front of Jack and Cynthia Morton’s home where popcorn, hot chocolate, sushi, cheese and crackers, wine and more were shared with passersby who stopped to chat and/or warm hands and toes around the blazing firepit in the driveway. I, for one, kept my bags, sand, and battery-operated tea lights to use again in December this year!

# Brookdalebugle

Editor Lisa Clark  
Layout & Photo Editor Michael Oliwa

The *Brookdale Bugle* is a publication of the Brookdale Citizens Association, published three times a year in February, June, and October.

The deadline for submission of articles, notices, and ads for the next edition is May 23 and should be emailed to Lisa Clark at [callisamc@gmail.com](mailto:callisamc@gmail.com).

Visit Brookdale online at [www.brookdalecitizens.org](http://www.brookdalecitizens.org).

# REAL ESTATE

by Dominique Rychlik

## Transactions for Brookdale/Wohlshire/Orchardale November 10, 2021 to February 13, 2022

Address	Sold/Active	List Price/Sold Price	BR	FB	HB	Acres	Age	DOM	Closing Date
5308 Sherrill Ave	Sold	\$1,275,000 / \$1,430,000	5	2	2	0.11	71	6	11/12/21
5210 Keokuk St	Sold	\$1,125,000 / \$1,125,000	4	3	1	0.15	84	8	11/29/21
4611 Harrison St	Active	\$925,000	2	1	1	0.16	75	4	

Address	Rented/Active	List Price/Rented Price	BR	FB	HB	Acres	Age	DOM	Closing Date
5017 Brookdale Rd	CLS	\$6,250 / \$6,600.00	5	4			86	5	1/15/22
4503 Dalton Rd	ACT	\$6,600	4	3	1		83	13	

We have not seen such a tight real estate market in decades. Agents who have been in the business for 5 decades said they have never seen such little supply. You can see that in the period of May-November 2021 covered in the last Bugle, there were 11 sales over 6 months. In the last 3 months there were 3 sales. Of course, there is a normal slowdown at the end of the year over the holiday season but, even so, we roughly halved the inventory over a 3-month period. This imbalance of high demand and low supply for houses in the area has created heated escalations in December and

January (not reflected in the Brookdale stats since we had NO inventory). Rentals have also generally been strong with multiple offers and higher rent prices which we saw in the rental on Brookdale Rd.

*Dominique Rychlik is a real estate agent with Compass Real Estate. The daughter of Bill and Kathy McElroy, she grew up in the neighborhood on Brookdale Road, which is still in the family, that the McElroy's bought off market in heated competition in sealed bids!*

*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 Lisa Clark at [callisamc@gmail.com](mailto:callisamc@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you!*

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Local Handyman Services

Jesse Zhang has decades of experience in doing local interior and exterior home repairs in Brookdale. He is happy to provide a free estimate for any size project.

Email: [jczhangchina@yahoo.com](mailto:jczhangchina@yahoo.com)

Cell: 202-853-4519

## ISO: BROOKDALE BOARD OFFICERS!

by Mike Makuch

*(Chair of the Assembly of the Nominating Committee)*

Another business year for Brookdale is rapidly drawing to a close, and the annual meeting is again on the horizon. Please mark the date of May 19 on your calendars, starting at 6:30 for social time and 7:00 for business. The meeting will take place at the Wisconsin Place Community Rec Center, 5311 Friendship Blvd, Chevy Chase. An important agenda item is to elect a slate of officers for the next year. On behalf of the current officers, I invite all Brookdale residents to consider serving as an officer on the board for the 2022-2023 term. A great way to meet your neighbors, you'll be integral in keeping our community active and vibrant, and the time commitment amounts to a just few hours a month. The positions of President, Vice President for each of Brookdale North, Brookdale South, Orchardale, Wohlshire, and Park-Newport, Secretary, and Treasurer are on the slate, as well as At-Large positions. If you are interested in serving for the upcoming year, please contact me by April 19, 2022. I look forward to hearing from you!

Please consider paying your  
2022 Association dues of \$40 online  
at our website: [www.brookdalecitizens.org](http://www.brookdalecitizens.org)

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or send a check to the  
Brookdale Citizens Association  
c/o Heather Paul, 4502 Cortland Road  
in the enclosed envelope.