

Brookdale *bugle*

BCA President's Report

Dick Podolske

Dear Brookdale Residents,

Thanks to the input and help of many residents, our community continues to be very active. The Association's recent activities are briefly summarized below:

Fourth of July Parade -- led by Glen Echo Fire Dept trucks (with sirens blaring and lights flashing!), the annual July 4th Parade traversed several streets in Brookdale north. Crowds cheered and waved flags from driveways and yards for the walkers, bikers, strollers, and wagons strolling past, all decked out in red, white, and blue.

Fall Block Party - Sept. 17 on Murray Rd – the internationally-themed party was a potluck bonanza. Very well attended, neighbors new and old enjoyed lots of delicious food. And delightful music provided by a dad and his twin daughters made for dancing in the street!

3rd Annual Porchfest - Oct. 14 & 15 - throughout Brookdale

Friday evening the 14th, Dover Ct in Brookdale south was the "stage" for wonderful entertainment, and delish Capt. Cookie and the Milkman food truck treats. Saturday the 15th from 1:00-6:00 we enjoyed performances from neighbors on both sides of Brookdale! Jose Andres' World Central Kitchen provided a food truck for the event.

Halloween - Oct. 30 - our annual parade was very well attended. Photos of the costume winners and spooky homes contest are inside the newsletter.

Luminaria 2023 and Caroling - Dec. 4th - once again the neighborhood took part in a big way, particularly Overbrook Rd, in the luminaria festivities. And a huge thank you to Stacy Yochum and fellow carolers for sharing your lovely voices in Brookdale south this year!

Developments Affecting our Neighborhood:

Western Avenue Bike Lane - a proposed protected two-way bike lane along the northern side of Western Ave

Thrive Montgomery 2050 - The Montgomery County Council approved Thrive Montgomery 2050 which calls for allowing higher density in our neighborhood as well as other parts of MoCo. A committee headed by Manuel Ochoa has been established to monitor and communicate developments to the community.

July 4 Parade



July 4 Parade

See inside the newsletter for photos of all the events!

2022 Fall Block Party

Sibyl Erdman

What a great neighborhood! About 80 neighbors ventured out on September 17 to make the Fall Block Party a tremendous success. It was such fun to see all the kids having fun together, to visit with people who have been here a while, and to meet and welcome the many newcomers to our community.

Thank you to everyone who brought delicious food to share and those who lent a hand with the various tasks. A special thanks to Heather Paul for all her handiwork, Lisa Clark for notifying the listserv with her terrific graphics, John Whelan for popping all the corn the kids could consume, and to Tom Sales, Bob Banach, and Willem Bier for not only contributing their grills for the barbecuing but for cooking up all the sausages, hot dogs, and burgers that were provided by funds from the Brookdale Treasury.

Thanks to Mike Makuch for his firepit, used by many kids to cook s'mores and by several adults who warmed up by the fire with adult beverages once the clean-up was accomplished. A big shout-out to the clean-up crew who magically returned Murray Road to tip-top shape.

A good time was had by all, and Abner Oakes's "Family Band" made it extra special. The music really added a fun and lively element to the evening! Thank you, Abner, for organizing the band to play. We hope you've lined them up for next year!



Help Keep Our Street Lights Shining!

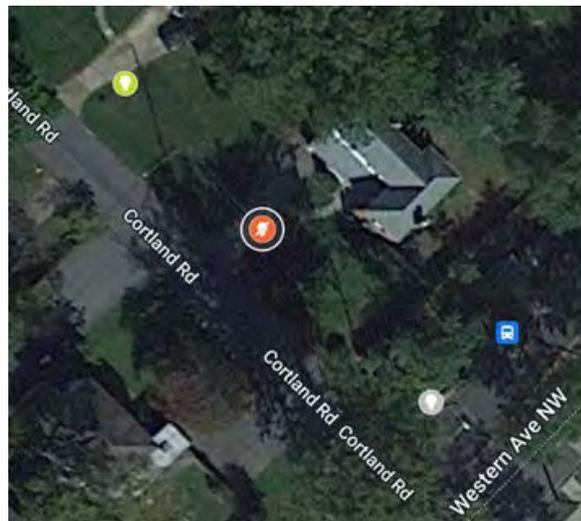
Bob Banach

You can help keep the street lights shining on your street if you take the time to report any issues to PEPCO. The process is straightforward and takes just a few minutes.

Step one is taking a picture of the pole identification number attached to the street side of the pole (see photo below) and noting the address of the house behind the pole.



Step two is to go to pepco.streetlightoutages.com where you will see an aerial map of the region. Zoom in on our neighborhood to see the street light symbol appear. If you click on one of the light symbols you will see a popup on the right where you can verify the number matches the photo you took (I suggest the photo since the light placement on the aerial photo is not exact). If this is the light in question click on the REPORT THIS LIGHT button under the pole number.



STREETLIGHT DETAILS

We are aware of a problem on this streetlight.

Pole Number:
774409-620820 or 774409-6282

Order Number:
3215589

Date Reported:
9/29/2022 6:34 PM EDT

Below is an example on Cortland Road where I reported a light that cycles off more than it is on (there is a comment box where you can provide details on the issue you are reporting). Since I reported this light, it shows up red with a line through it indicating the problem has been reported. It will remain like this until crews repair/replace it. The next light down on the street is green indicating it is working.

If you click on a street light along Western Avenue, you should see a DC flag appear above the pole number. PEPCO displays the DC 311 number to call to report the issue. You will still need a nearby address (usually a DC address on the opposite side of the street), along with the pole number to help them locate the pole and put in a request. The number to call in DC is 202-727-1000.

While the repairs do not happen immediately, I know this process works since I've reported one or two over the years and they always get fixed within a few weeks of identifying the issue.

Thanks for your efforts to keep our streets lighted and safe.

Dues and Don'ts!

Heather Paul

Thank you to all that sent along their 2022 dues of \$40. We hope you experienced a little of what dues provided this year: spring and summer concerts in the park, a Fourth of July parade, the fall block party, 3rd Annual Porchfest, and the Halloween costume parade!

I often get the question, "How many Brookdale residents pay their dues?" My reply is, "Unfortunately, a little less than 50%." I would like a better answer, so please help me easily top 50% in 2023! **You can pay online at brookdalecitizens.org or by check to Heather Paul, Treasurer, directly at 4502 Cortland Road.** Thank you!

3rd Annual Porchfest

Our Good Neighbor, Abner Oakes

"A big thank you to the association - for your support of my little fall music project. I thought it was a blast this year, and the cul-de-sac was packed with people at the end of Saturday. Tons of little kids, too.

I already have new ideas for next fall and will keep you all posted. Again much thanks!"



Also from Abner -

"A quick note that the neighborhood raised just over \$1100 for Carpe Diem Arts' Ukes on the Move during Porchfest. That is wonderful - thanks so much to all of you, particularly Dominique Rychlik, who sponsored the t-shirts that were the engine of this fund-raising, and Joan Christie, who designed this year's logo for the shirt. Way to go, all!

And mark your calendars, neighbors: **Porchfest 2023 will take place October 14th.** See you then! :)"

Halloween Costume Winners and Spooky House Winners, Oh My!



First place - Tom Sinks, 4711 Merivale Road



The "Spooky" Family, Spiders in the Car, and Skeleton Ballerinas on the Lawn!

Brookdale*bugle*

Lisa Clark, Editor

The *Bugle* is the newsletter of the Brookdale Citizens Association (BCA), published and distributed to every home in the community four times a year (January, April, July, and October).

Announcements of upcoming editions and deadlines for submitting ads, articles, and notices are posted on the listserv and the Brookdale website: www.brookdalecitizens.org

Birds, Bees, and Brookdale

Lolly Jewett

Leave the Leaves

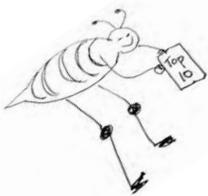
I bring good tidings. All those leaves that burst into color and then dropped all over your yard? You. Don't. Have. To. Rake. Them.

In fact, it's better all around if you don't. Fallen leaves are nature's secret weapon. We can unleash their power by just letting them be. Seriously.

Fallen leaves return rich layers of organic nutrients to the soil when they decompose. The organisms that break them down are critical parts of the food webs that ultimately support us humans. Leaf litter insulates the ground, protecting the roots of shrubs and trees from freezing weather. A blanket of leaves works as well as any store-bought mulch in retaining moisture and suppressing weeds. Leaves capture rainwater, helping it infiltrate the soil rather than causing erosion and adding to stormwater runoff. Amphibians, birds, mammals and other critters use tree and plant debris for food and shelter. Many moths, butterflies and bees overwinter in leaf litter. If you want to see pollinators next spring, protect their habitats this fall.

I get it: leaves not attached to trees can seem messy. The important thing is to try to keep as many of them on your property as possible. Try moving them from your driveways, walkways, patios and lawns onto your garden beds and under your trees. Or try the "mullet strategy" (remember business-up-front, party-in-the-back?): rake up your street-facing yard, but let the leaves hang loose out back. If you have so many leaves they'd smother your lawn or gardens, and store them in an out-of-the-way corner until you can work them back into the soil.

Save yourself time, backaches and blisters, while supporting wildlife and ecosystem health, by simply leaving the leaves!



Check out my weekly online newsletter at beesknees.substack.com if you'd like more information.

You're welcome to subscribe for free!

Luminaria 2023

Lisa Clark

It wasn't the warmest of evenings but, then again, it was December, and yet there was warmth in the eyes and smiles of neighbors who strolled through Brookdale to take in the festive paper bag lights lined up and down the streets. On Overbrook Rd, in front of Jack and Cynthia Morton's house, tables laden with hot chocolate (spiked and not), authentic glogg, and sweet and savory snacks, and their toasty firepit made for a popular gathering spot. Caroling, cheerful greetings, and laughter from young and old filled the air. I daresay it was close to how Cooper Lightbown envisioned the neighborhood when he started building our homes 85-ish years ago. Heartwarming, for sure.



Bye bye, Brookdale

Bill Grigg *

Bye, bye, Brookdale. After 40 years at 4607 Merivale Road, I miss you already and I hope everyone appreciates what a unique suburb they are lucky enough to have be living in. We moved here from a tiny starter house and immediately enjoyed the neighborliness of the people and the sturdiness and beauty of the homes. So when an anniversary rolled around, I suggested our unique area should have signs designating it, a suggestion that was unanimously accepted at our annual citizens meeting — as long as I would raise the money necessary. I drafted a design and discovered Brookdale generosity, both in dollars and in offers of help in refining the original design. With help from Campbell Graeub and others ** we soon had the money — and the spaces in front of key houses to place the seal signs. Other neighbors have regularly cleaned the park and left basketballs on the court for anyone to take an occasional shot. When COVID came along, I had reached my eighties and found lots of help in getting vaccinated. Most amazingly, down at the corner where the school bus pickup and dropped off kids, neighbors on both sides put up a basketball hoop and a badminton set so that youngsters would have something to do when a bus was late. When, having lost my wife Martha, I was eventually, rattling around in the house alone, I decided to sell and move to the Maplewood Park Place coop apartments, I got help in finding places to take my piano and many books. And when a tree fell into my yard as open house approached, my immediate neighbors had it cleared away the next day! Thanks to all of you. Never forget what a unique and happy neighborhood you're lucky enough to live in!

* Bill Grigg, author, *A Perfectly Natural Murder* and *When Intimacy Can Kill*



** Bill had the idea for a sign for Brookdale — he got the ball rolling, secured approval and all the other important elements of getting a project completed. I created the design for the Brookdale signs. Dick Podolski and the Brookdale VP's at the time also played a part in making the final selection.

Also, no one at the time had any thought about having a "logo" or "image" for Brookdale. Bill may not realize he started something that reached further than its original intent: the sign artwork has since been adapted for the Bugle header, t-shirts, and other misc. items.

Michael Oliwa

Welcome to Newcomers.....

Cate Kennedy and Haskell Garon have moved to 5315 Willard Ave with their 1.5-year-old daughter, Noa, and their four-year-old mini goldendoodle, Balti. Cate is originally from Bethesda and a Walter Johnson (WJ) alumna. Haskell is originally from Falls Church and a Jewish Day School (JDS) alumnus. They are excited to be settling back in after a few years in Brooklyn, and look forward to getting to know their new neighbors.

Has someone new moved onto your street? Encourage them to email callisamc@gmail.com to be included in the next edition of the Bugle.

Submit to the Newsletter!

The Brookdale Bugle tries as best as it can to cover news that is important to the neighborhood. As a volunteer effort, it only rises to the level of its best contributors. Do you have a story or news you would like to share with the community? Do you have an idea for a regular column you would like to write? Email Lisa Clark, Bugle editor, callisamc@gmail.com

Neighborhood Directory Update Update, Again!

Lisa Clark

The gathering of information for an **updated neighborhood directory** is still ongoing. As of this writing, there is information for only about 210 of the 400+ homes in Brookdale. Please don't assume that I know that your information hasn't changed since 2019. Striving for accuracy is the name of the game.

If you've not sent your information to me and you want to be included in the directory, please complete the enclosed form and scan or email it to me at callisamc@gmail.com. Or you can go to the website at brookdalecitizens.org, scroll to the bottom of the first page under Quick Links, click on the Online Directory Update Form, provide your information and click on Submit.

Your Classified Ad Here....

Do you or does someone in your household have a service or talent you'd like to promote? A free ad in the Bugle is a terrific way to get the word out. I'm talking to you babysitters, rakers-of-leaves, dog walkers, handypeople, roofers, IT techs, and everyone.

Email Lisa Clark at callisamc@gmail.com to place an ad in the next edition.

The Real Estate Market Report

Dominique Rychlik

area, the result is 1 or 2 offers on a property that might have garnered 8-10 or more in Spring 2022 and little escalation compared to the significant 100-300K escalations we saw earlier this year. Buyers are more condition conscious and less willing to make compromises. However our area remains very desirable and a moderation of pricing is bringing the market into better balance. My hope is that with mortgage rates moderating, buyer activity will rebound in the coming months.

Join the Brookdale Listserv!

Joining the listserv is fast, easy, and the perfect place to advertise a yard sale, free stuff on the curb, or get recommendations for plumbers, tree guys, water heater installation, etc. It's also the **ONLY** place to get "it's not trash night" posts from that guy Bill McCloskey.

Go to:

brookdalecitizensassociation+subscribe@groups.io

Upcoming Events!



Watch for listserv announcements and check out the Brookdale website for info about upcoming happenings in the neighborhood, such as the park bench dedication for Amy Rispin, the spring block party, the annual board meeting, and more.