The Brookeville Times
July 2010

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Town Commissioners are seeking town resident to serve on the Brookeville Planning Commission

As a member of the planning commission, you will have accepted the civic responsibility of helping residents and business and property owners articulate and achieve a vision for how they want their community to look and function in the future. The planning commission is the Town's primary entity responsible for long term, comprehensive planning.

The State of Maryland entrusts local jurisdictions with land use planning authority. Article 66B of the Maryland Annotated Code enables Brookeville to guide growth and development; outlines the responsibilities, roles, and functions of the planning commission; and sets the "ground rules" for operations.

Residents on the west side of town are especially encouraged to apply. **If you can spare a few hours a month and are interested in serving on the Brookeville Planning Commissioner**, please contact Michael Acierno or send an email to the townofbrookeville@comcast.net

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

✓ The gravel roads bore the brunt of snow removal this past winter. You may have driven over one of the many potholes recently. The Town has contracted to make repairs to North, South and Water Streets starting this month. Thank you for your patience.

✓ The cast-iron light pole in front of 308 Market Street that was run down by an errant driver back in March has been ordered. The new cast-iron light fixture will have a liteshield that throws the light out the sides of the fixture like an oval and helps to reduce light pollution. The new light pole should be installed by early August. In the mean time, our electrical contractor will be around to fix the ornamental light poles that are not functioning.

Brookeville Road Repairs are being considered by Montgomery County

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation has applied for a permit to repair Brookeville Road crossing over Reddy Branch Tributary near Market Street. The County hopes to replace twin 42" diameter Corrugate Metal Pipe culverts with a concrete box culvert. This is expected to reduce clogging and maintenance cost for the structure.

Congratulations Michael!

At the June Town Commissioner Meeting, Michael Acierno was selected by the Town Commissioners to serve another term as President of Commissioners. Commissioner Acierno was reelected to another 2 year term in the May election.

GREEN TIPS
COOL EFFICIENTLY

As much as half of the energy used in your home goes to heating and cooling. So making smart decisions about your home's heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system can have a big effect on your utility bills — and your comfort. Take these steps to increase the efficiency of your heating and cooling system.

Change your air filter regularly. Check your filter every month, especially during heavy use months (winter and summer). If the filter looks dirty after a month, change it. At a minimum, change the filter every 3 months. A dirty filter will slow down air flow and make the system work harder to keep you warm or cool — wasting energy. A clean filter will also prevent dust and dirt from building up in the system — leading to expensive maintenance and/or early system failure.

Tune up your HVAC equipment yearly
Just as a tune-up for your car can improve your gas mileage, a yearly tune-up of your heating and cooling system can improve efficiency and comfort

A typical maintenance check-up should include the following.
- **Check thermostat settings** to ensure the cooling and heating system keeps you comfortable when you are home and saves energy while you are away.
- **Tighten all electrical connections** and measure voltage and current on motors. Faulty electrical connections can cause unsafe operation of your system and reduce the life of major components.
- **Lubricate all moving parts.** Parts that lack lubrication cause friction in motors and increases the amount of electricity you use.
- **Check and inspect the condensate drain** in your central air conditioner, furnace and/or heat pump (when in cooling mode). A plugged drain can cause water damage in the house and affect indoor humidity levels.
- **Check controls of the system** to ensure proper and safe operation. Check the starting cycle of the equipment to assure the system starts, operates, and shuts off properly.
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Cooling Specific
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- **Clean evaporator and condenser air conditioning coils.** Dirty coils reduce the system's ability to cool your home and cause the system to run longer, increasing energy costs and reducing the life of the equipment.
- **Check your central air conditioner's refrigerant level** and adjust if necessary. Too much or too little refrigerant will make your system less efficient increasing energy costs and reducing the life of the equipment.
- **Clean and adjust blower components** to provide proper system airflow for greater comfort levels. Airflow problems can reduce your system's efficiency by up to 15 percent.
- **Inspect, clean, or change air filters** once a month in your central air conditioner, furnace, and/or heat pump. A dirty filter can increase energy costs and damage your equipment, leading to early failure.

Install a programmable thermostat
A programmable thermostat is ideal for people who are away from home during set periods of time throughout the week. Through proper use of pre-programmed settings, a programmable thermostat can save you about $180 every year in energy costs.

Seal your heating and cooling ducts
Ducts that move air to-and-from a forced air furnace, central air conditioner, or heat pump are often big energy wasters. Sealing and insulating ducts can improve the efficiency of your heating and cooling system by as much as 20 percent — and sometimes much more.

BE SAFE: There have been a large number of fraudulent solicitations for business (lawn maintenance, home care to name a few) by individuals going door-to-door these past weeks.

Please do not open your door to strangers, especially if you are home alone. Any legitimate solicitor will have a Montgomery County permit, which you should ask to see.

If anyone makes you feel unsafe, call 911.

If you see any suspicious activity, call the Montgomery County Police non-emergency number, **301-279-8000**. Please note any personal details that could be helpful to the police such as height, weight, coloring, identify features (scars, tattoos); or car color, make, and model.

Heritage Days

The Brookeville Schoolhouse had 84 visitors Saturday, June 26th as part of Heritage Days. Donna Will, Executive Director of the Woodlawn Manor Museum, volunteer at the Schoolhouse with her Hands-On History program.

311 Launched – One Easy-to-Remember Phone Number Will Now Access Nearly All Montgomery County Government Services

Montgomery County Residents will now be able to call 311 to report an issue or request information from Montgomery County departments. The phone line will be staffed Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Along with the phone line, the County also launched a companion 311 website that is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311

Now, instead of trying to remember a county government phone number or dialing several departments before reaching the right one, phone requests can go to one central location— by dialing 311.

311 is accessible by most cell phone providers and will connect you when you are physically in Montgomery County. Fees may apply so check with your cell phone provider. Outside the County, access operators by calling 240-777-0311.

Animal Control
Animal Control in the Town is handled by the
Montgomery County Division of Animal Control and Humane Treatment.
- For animal emergencies, please call (240) 773-5900
- For pet complaints, lost and found reports, licenses, to report dead animals on roads, low-cost spay/neuter program, please call (240) 773-5960
- For Wildlife Nuisance Problems (birds in attic, groundhogs under porches, etc.) call 877-463-6497

Town of Brookeville

Established 1794   Incorporated 1808

Town Office Phone: 301-570-4465
Town Office Fax: 301-570-0355
Town Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 67, Brookeville, MD 20833

President of Commissioners
Michael Acierno   301.260.2897

Commissioners
Bob Heritage   301.774.0457
Katherine Farquhar   240.753.2121

Town Clerk
Cate McDonald   301.570.9119

Treasurer
Susan Johnson   301.924.5979

Town E-mail Address:
townofbrookeville@comcast.net

Town Website Address:
www.townofbrookevillemd.org

Mark Your Calendar!

Planning Commission
06Jul 7:30pm
Commissioners Meeting
12Jul 8:00pm
Annual Town Picnic
29Aug 4:00pm

*All Meetings and events are held at the
Brookeville Academy and
are open to the public.*

Have an Item for The Brookeville Times?

Let us know!! We want to hear about
happenings in the Town of Brookeville. You
can submit articles/photos about places you've
been, work you've done, new neighbors,
weddings, birth announcements, anything of
interest to you and your neighbors.
Contact the Town Clerk at 301-570-4465 or
townofbrookeville@comcast.net
Letters to the Editor Welcomed