NEWSLETTER

HOA Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Brookeville Farms Homeowners will be held on Thursday, February 25 at 7:00 PM at the Community Room in the Buffington/ReMax Building in Olney.   There will be three openings on the Board of Directors to be filled. It is important for the future of the community that these positions be filled. If you would like to help, please plan to attend. ✤

HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on the following dates: Thursday, April 22 (Craig residence); Thursday, June 17 (Stine residence); Thursday, September 23 (Barksdale residence); and Wednesday, November 17 (Wesolowski residence). All homeowners are welcome to attend. ✤

HOA Web Site

The Brookeville Farms HOA web site is located at http://www.bfmdhoa.org/. This site includes information pertaining to the HOA such as ARC forms, minutes from previous board meetings, current and previous newsletters, as well as contact information for board members. ✤

Newsletter Distribution

This newsletter is only being distributed via electronic mail. To add your name to the bfneighbors distribution list, please send an e-mail to Peter Schmidt at peter@prstech.com. If you do not have an e-mail address, please contact David Sager. Past newsletters may also be found on the HOA web site. ✤

Speed Calming

In response to frequent complaints of speeding along Bordly Drive, a request for a speed calming survey was made to the Montgomery County Division of Traffic Engineering and Operations. Several suggestions were made including speed humps and a traffic circle. The study was performed and the following results were given:

• Our analysis indicated that the average lot size of properties adjacent to the roadway on Bordly Drive is greater than two acres and, therefore, the roadway does not qualify for the installation of speed humps.
• We also looked at the intersection of Bordly Drive and Lubar Way. The geometry of that intersection is not suitable for the installation of a traffic circle.
• We are recommending that double yellow center lines be installed on the portion of Bordly Drive that has no pavement marking.
• We are also recommending installing stop lines at the intersection of Bordly Drive and Brighton Dam Road, installing additional speed limit signs, and install winding road signs one on each direction of Bordly Drive approaching the curves.
• We are also requesting that the Montgomery County Police Department use selective enforcement of the speed limit on the roadway. ✤

Architectural Review Committee

Homeowners are reminded that except for the purposes of proper maintenance and repair, no building or improvements may be made to any structure without prior consent of the Architectural Review Committee (ARC). An application form may be found on the HOA web site (http://www.bfmdhoa.org/). ✤

Computer Jargon in Plain English

From The SANS Institute

Computer jargon appears more and more in the news and pops up in everyday conversation. Familiarity with these terms will help you.

Getting Connected

BROADBAND: Broad bandwidth networking. High-speed Internet connections, like DSL (Digital Subscriber Line), Cable Internet, and 3G (Third Generation) cellular services.

DSL: Digital Subscriber Line. One of the most common ways to bring Internet to homes and small businesses over a telephone line at up to 12 Megabits/second.

CABLE OR CABLE INTERNET: The other most common way to bring Internet to homes over cable TV lines at speeds ranging from 1.5 to 50 Megabits/second.

FiOS: Fiber-Optic Service. An emerging technology that provides Internet to homes and offices over fiber-optic cables at speeds from 15 to 50 Megabits/second.

WI-FI: Wireless Fidelity. The most common kind of short-range wireless networking--about 300 feet--at speeds of up to 108 Megabits/second.

EDGE or EVDO: An older kind of wide-area wireless networking-like a whole city--based on first and second generation cellphone technology with speeds ranging from 300 to 400 kilobits/second.

3G: Third Generation cellular service. Enhanced wide-area wireless networking at speeds of up to 14 Megabits/second.

4G: Fourth Generation cellular service or WIMAX. An emerging wide-area networking technology that promises a range of 10 miles and speeds of up to 100 Megabits/second.

ETHERNET: A way of connecting computers to networks using a cable at speeds ranging from 10 to 10,000 Megabits/second.

FIREWALL: Software or hardware that prevents outsiders from accessing a computer or network.

ROUTER: A device that finds the best route for sending information between networks.

IP ADDRESS: Internet Protocol Address. Every computer on the Internet is identified by a unique set of numbers known as an Internet Protocol address--usually four numbers separated by dots, for example:

74.125.53.100. These numerical addresses are normally invisible to users and are translated into familiar Web addresses, like http://www.google.com.

Malware

VIRUS: A self-replicating program designed to cause damage or mischief that inserts itself into a software program on your computer. Viruses spread from computer to computer, most often through infected emails or websites.

WORM: Similar to a virus, but worms are self-contained, spread via networks, and do not need to become part of another program in order to spread. Worms infect your operating system and act like a program.

TROJAN HORSE: A malicious program that may appear harmless-or even useful-but can also conceal and download other malware that compromises the security and functioning of your computer.

RANSOMWARE: A cyber-extortion scheme in which thieves use malware—like phony security programs--to take control of your computer and demand that you pay a ransom to regain control.

SPYWARE and ADWARE: Spyware is a malicious program that installs itself on your computer surreptitiously and monitors and reports your activities and personal information to third parties. Adware is a kind of spyware that generates annoying popup ads.

KEYLOGGERS: Spyware that monitors your keystrokes surreptitiously and sends the information to a "Bad Guy."

Bad Guys

HACKERS AND CRACKERS: Individuals who break into systems with malicious intent, destroy data, steal copyrighted software or confidential information, and perform other destructive or illegal acts with computers and networks.

VULNERABILITIES AND EXPLOITS: Your computer is vulnerable when a hardware or software flaw makes it possible to compromise its security and smooth operation. An exploit is a software application or program that takes advantage of a vulnerability to attack your system.

SNIFFING: Listening in on a network in order to capture and steal sensitive information.

SPOOFING: An attack in which a person or program you shouldn't trust masquerades as a person or program you do trust. For example, an attacker forges an email address in order to make you believe it's from someone you know and trust.

PHISHING: A widespread form of Internet fraud that aims to steal valuable information such as credit card and social security numbers and usernames and passwords, by sending you misleading emails designed to lure you into visiting phony or rigged websites.

IDENTITY THEFT: Cybercriminals steal identities by overhearing conversations on cellphones, intercepting faxes and emails, hacking into computers, employing telephone and email scams, and phishing the users of online services.

SOCIAL ENGINEERING: Deceptions by criminals posing as someone you trust in order to get you to divulge sensitive information. ❖