



The Brookside Beacon

A Community Newsletter for Brookside Colony Residents
June 2011



Wanted: Coordinator

The Social Committee is looking for someone willing to coordinate this year's neighborhood garage sale. If interested, please contact **Mary Ellen Heldman** (email: helman@wowway.com or phone: 766-0903) or **Mary Short** (email: meveryshort@msn.com or phone: 766-5208).



"You expect me to play with educational toys during summer vacation?"



Did you hear?

Marie Davis (Palmleaf Lane) is the new BSCCA Welcoming Chairperson. Please let her know when a new neighbor moves in so that she can welcome them to the neighborhood.

Brake for summer break!

With summer vacation starting for our youngest neighbors, more children will be out and about on our neighborhood streets. Please remember to drive carefully through the neighborhood.

Update on Fee Assessment Collection

A big thank you goes to all the home owners who paid the annual fee assessment on time. Of the 147 home owners in our neighborhood, only one remains to pay this assessment. This has been sent to collection.



Congratulations to our Brookside Colony Graduates!
See page 2 to see how they did and what they will be doing.



Congratulations, graduates!

Once again we congratulate all our neighbors who are graduating from high school and college this year. This is a remarkable accomplishment and you all should be proud of this momentous milestone.

Congratulations and good luck on your future endeavors!

Kristin Ashley (Mapleleaf Blvd)

JR Bernans (Starleaf Lane)

Taylor Renee Bryant (Hedera Court)

Katie Chenevey (Mapleleaf Blvd) graduated from Dublin Scioto High School on May 28. She received several recognitions and scholarships, including the National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, the Dublin Scioto PTO Academic Boosters Scholarship, the University of Toledo Presidential Scholarship, and has been nominated for the Ohio Department of Education Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship (which will be announced this summer). Katie will be one of 39 valedictorians honored this year. She will be attending the University of Toledo where she was accepted in the BS/MD program. She intends to study bioengineering while in the honors program before entering medical school.

Kala Clary (Palmleaf Lane) graduated from Dublin Scioto High School on May 28. She will be attending Ohio University where she plans to double major in Special Education and Nursing.

Kevin Cox (Mapleleaf Blvd) graduated from the University of Dayton with a BS in Chemical Engineering May 8th. He will be working at Sunstar Engineering Americas in Springboro, Ohio.

Stephanie Guertin (Mapleleaf Court) graduated from Kent State University on May 7. While at Kent State, she made the Dean's List, earned a pilot's license, and completed two bachelor's degrees, one in aeronautical studies and the other in air traffic control. Stephanie plans to work at a flight service station before moving on to dispatching and ultimately air traffic controller. She will receive additional training for air traffic controllers at the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Betty Kimball (Starleaf Lane)

Yesam Kim

Kevin Li (Mapleleaf Blvd) graduated from Dublin Scioto High School on May 28. He received several awards, including The President's Award for Educational Excellence, the 2011 State Board of Education Award of Merit, and, for being on the honor roll every single grading period of his high school career, the Four-year Honor Roll Certificate. Kevin was one of 39 valedictorians honored this year and graduated Summa Cum Laude. He will be attending Ohio State University and plans to major in computer science.

Dominic Rosso (Starleaf Lane)



"Young man, do you know how fast you were going?"

Please Drive Carefully!

While the speed limit on our neighborhood streets may not be this slow, please observe the 25 MPH limit. It could save a life!
Thank you!

Hey, Kids: What's wrong with this picture?



If you said, "He's not wearing a helmet," you'd be right!

Wearing a helmet not only looks cool, but it also protects your head from injury while bicycling, skating, and scootering along our neighborhood sidewalks and streets. Be safe and wear your helmet!



Website management change

Debbie Knight (Mapleleaf Blvd) has volunteered to be the BSCCA website manager. Please be patient while she learns how to work with the Adobe DreamWeaver program (a very powerful, but far from user-friendly, web design program). She hopes to have the website updated by late summer (fingers crossed!).

If there are any neighbors who have experience with this program or with web design in general and would be willing to serve as a consultant / adviser should Debbie need help, please contact her by email: brooksidebeacon@hotmail.com Advice is always welcomed!

Also, if there are features that you would like to see on the website that are currently not available, please let Debbie know. She will do her best to incorporate these ideas.

Connie Peregrine (Palmleaf Lane) did a great job getting the website up and running as well as performing updates. Thank you, Connie!

Happy Father's Day to all the dads in the neighborhood!



Recycling Event

The OSU Chadwick Arboretum and Learning Gardens will be holding its 2nd annual **plastic flower pot & tray recycling event** on Saturday, June 18th from 8am to 2pm in the Vivian Hall parking lot (2121 Fyffe Road at Lane Avenue) on the OSU campus.

Please bring your clean plastic flower pots and trays as well as clean, non-food styrofoam packing materials (such as packing peanuts and packing forms) to this event for recycling.

This is an attempt to keep these materials out of the landfill.



Need something to do this summer?

You can walk a unique labyrinth (a circuit for contemplative walking) at OSU Chadwick



Arboretum's Lane Avenue Gardens. According to Chadwick's website: During a walk on the labyrinth, which typically takes about 20 minutes to complete, the mind quiets, the breath slows, and time stretches out. In one of its most important physiological effects, the many left-to-right and right-to-left turns experienced while walking the labyrinth causes a vestibular response that temporarily balances both the logical and artistic activities of the brain.

Hint from Heloise

Got a butter stain on your shirt?

Try wetting it with shampoo before laundering.

The reader who submitted this suggestion also says this works on mayonaise, margarine and salad dressing stains as well.



Adapted from Hints from Heloise, The Columbus Dispatch, Feb. 20, 2011

Neighborhood communication is key to functioning neighborhood

Our neighborhood is made up of a diverse group of people. And effective communication is important in maintaining neighborly relationships.

According to Webster's dictionary, a neighbor is, "one who lives or is on friendly terms with another" and being neighborly is defined as, "being social or friendly."

But sometimes, a neighbor may do something that makes us feel a little less "friendly" and little more "annoyed." Often this is something minor such as they mow their lawn or start their weekend project at an obnoxiously early hour on your day to sleep in. Perhaps they choose to tune up their car, motorcycle, or mower when you are trying to get your child to take a nap. Annoying yes, but if it's infrequent, it should be something that can be forgiven and forgotten.

Occasionally a neighbor, perhaps unaware of neighborhood restrictions or the city codes, breaks the rules and does something that goes beyond annoyance.

The rules, by the way, are spelled out in the Brookside Colony Covenants and Restrictions (found in the back of the BSCCA directory) or in the City of Columbus codes (found on the website: www.columbus.gov).

When this situation happens, what should we do?

It is really about communication. So, maybe it should start first by thinking about how you yourself would want to find out about a problem with your neighbors.

The most obvious place to start is to talk to your neighbor directly about the problem. And with a gentle approach, the situation can often be easily defused. Chances are your neighbor has no idea there is a restriction or a code that has been broken so giving them the benefit of the doubt is a good place to start.

Most neighbors would rather hear about an issue from their neighbor rather than from a city official. Talking directly with your neighbor is not always the easiest thing to do, in fact it can be downright awkward. But an honest conversation could open the door to good neighbors or friends, if handled appropriately.

If you really feel uncomfortable talking with the neighbor, you could leave a note on their door. However, it is recommended that you sign the note, so that the note is taken seriously. This will likely promote a healthy relationship between you and your neighbor. Leaving a neighbor to guess who left the note may lead to the feeling that the neighbors are "out to get them" and can foster bad feelings toward all residents in neighboring homes.

Another way to handle the situation (but keep in mind that these are just regular folk like you or me) is to contact a BSCCA officer to approach the neighbor. Again, it is better for someone to hear from a neighbor (even if that neighbor is not involved in the situation) than from a code enforcement officer.

Perhaps one last resort if it is a city code violation is to report the code violation through the 3-1-1 system on the City of Columbus website or to call 3-1-1. You can leave your name at the time the report is given or you can do it anonymously.

We should remember that the restrictions and the codes are really about keeping our neighborhood clean, safe, and healthy.

We should all do our part to be good neighbors. After all, we're all in this together.



Outdoor cooking safety

By Alan Perkins

The taste of a grilled hot dog or burger is hard to beat.

Whether you are using propane, charcoal or electricity, grilling involves hot surfaces and -- most of the time -- flames.

The potential for serious burns and fires warrants caution and safety before, during, and after your cookout.

Use charcoal lighter or fluid on coals only before you start the fire.

Never use gasoline to start or revive a fire. Gasoline in its liquid or vapor form can ignite and cause severe burns.

Keep damp or wet coals in a well-ventilated area. During the drying process, spontaneous combustion can occur in confined spaces.

If a bag of charcoal gets wet, leave it outside and away from the house.

Use grills where they will not tip over or ignite objects above them. Do not use them under awnings.

More than one third of all gas grill and charcoal grill home fires begin on an exterior balcony or unenclosed porch.

Keep grills outside of tents and recreational vehicles.

Never use a grill in the home. The carbon monoxide produced by burning charcoal can be dangerous in an enclosed space.

Never leave a lighted grill unattended.

Have a container of water or garden hose ready to extinguish a fire.

Keep children away from fires and grills. They may try to climb on the grill to see what is cooking.

Although coals might appear cold, always soak them after cooking.

Carefully douse the coals with water, avoiding splashing and splatters from a garden hose and keep your body clear of steam and smoke.

If you use a grill fueled by liquid propane (LP), check all fuel line connections periodically for leaks by coating them with a solution of soap and water and watching for bubbles, an indicator of a leak.

Turn off burner valves and the supply valve on the gas cylinder or tank when the grill is not in use. Never store an LP-fueled grill indoors.

Make sure you have long-handled grilling tools on hand to give the chef at your house plenty of clearance from heat and flames when flipping burgers.

If you need to treat a burn, cool it with cool, not cold, water immediately.

Cover the burn with a clean cloth and seek emergency help.



What's eating your tree?

Some of the trees in our neighborhood look like this – stressed either by disease, hot summers, or bug infestation. Please be aware that we have a large number of Ash trees throughout our neighborhood and that the Emerald Ash Borer has decimated Ash trees all over Ohio. Many tree diseases and infestations can be prevented and the neighborhood trees saved if treatment is begun early enough. Your local arborists can offer advice on what's eating your tree.



Signs of a Healthy Tree *By Vanessa Richins*

Here are some things to look for when assessing whether your tree is healthy:

Evidence of Yearly Growth

Trees produce new growth yearly on both their trunk and their branches. You should look to see how much growth has occurred in the past year by checking the distance between this year's buds and last year's (evidenced by scars on the branch). The average growth varies by tree, so check to see what you should expect.

No Dead or Broken Branches

Prune away dead and broken branches as soon as you see them, as these are a common way for insects and diseases to enter the tree. Test for dead branches by scraping the branch with your thumbnail. Living branches will show green underneath. You can also test branches by gently bending them. Living branches will be supple and bend easily. If the branch is dead, it will snap.

Check the Trunk

With the exception of certain trees (such as some birches, eucalyptus, and maples), bark should not be loose or peeling. There should not be fungi growing on the trunk. Be careful when using garden equipment around trees, as damage to the trunk can leave an open wound where insects and diseases will attack. There should not be large cracks or holes.

No Bare Patches

If you have an evergreen tree, watch for sections without leaves year-round. Otherwise, don't worry about your deciduous trees until the leaves have appeared in the spring. Common causes of bare patches include: nutrients and water not reaching those branches; animals eating the leaves; improper pruning practices; pesticide damage; and insects and diseases.

No Wilting

When a tree is stressed, a common sign is wilting. The leaves and stems will lose their rigidity and begin to droop.

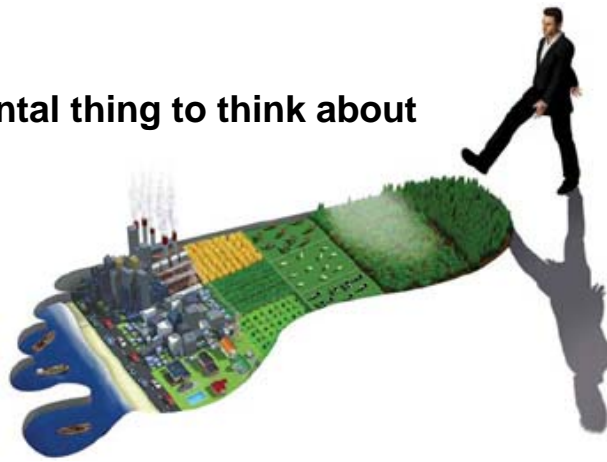
Proper Leaf Color, Shape, and Size

A good indicator of poor tree health is the leaves. Make sure they are the right color for the season you are in. Unless the tree naturally has yellow or variegated leaves, be especially wary if they turn yellow. They should not be stunted or irregularly-shaped. These all can be signs of nutrient deficiencies, insect damage, watering problems, pesticide damage, and diseases.

No Signs of Insects or Diseases

Other causes of poor tree health include insects and diseases. Some warning signs to look for are: insects visible on tree; lack of fruit or flowers; distortions in leaf size, color or shape; holes in bark, branches, or leaves; growths on branches; oozing sap; slowing in growth rate; and wilting

Our nitrogen footprint: Yet another environmental thing to think about



We've all heard about the "carbon footprint" (the amount of carbon pollution that is released by burning fossil fuels). But there's another footprint you many not be aware of: the nitrogen footprint.

Yes, nitrogen, the most abundant component of our atmosphere. We're not talking about naturally-occurring molecular nitrogen found in our atmosphere. but reactive nitrogens found in air pollution (such as nitrogen oxides which are produced by fossil fuel combustion), as well as water pollution (such as nitrates and ammonias which can come from agriculture – fertilizers, livestock feed, animal waste, etc.). Even the chemical fertilizers many homeowners (including me) put on their lawns can contribute to the pollution stream.

An example of this that hit close to home occurred last summer when many recreational lakes were shut down across Ohio because of toxic algae. The plumes of algae were blamed on run-off from local farms and residences that contained a lot of nitrogen and phosphorus (from fertilizers or animal waste) and hot summer days.

And we can't forget about other bad things beyond carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons that come from our car's tailpipe.

So, nitrogen pollution has become an increasingly larger problem in the past few years. And, sadly, if it were properly managed, much of it could be prevented, according to the experts.

A website (N-print.org) was launched last weekend that calculates your "nitrogen footprint" and allows you to determine ways you can reduce the size of your footprint.

I was happy to find out that my nitrogen footprint was slightly less than the average American's footprint. But I also realized there is even more that I can do to reduce my footprint.

A simple way that regular folks such as you or I can reduce our "nitrogen footprint" is to reduce the amount of protein we eat. Most Americans eat more (way more!) than the recommended daily allowance of protein – usually in the form of animal protein (which includes meat, dairy, and even vegetable proteins). If we reduced the amount of protein we consumed, it would reduce our nitrogen footprint by 30%, according to the experts at the meeting I attended.

Another way is to limit energy use. Using public transportation or turning down the thermostat in wintertime could dramatically reduce nitrogen air pollution.

So, now, in addition to thinking about our carbon footprint, recycling, and all that goes with trying to be environmentally friendly, we will have to add one more thing to an already long list to think about: nitrogen.