



**Brookside Estates HOA
Fall 2008
Newsletter**



Visit the official Brookside Estates HOA website for news and announcements
www.Brookside-Estates.org

You'll find meeting minutes, important announcements, HOA documents, and a link to let you e-mail the board with any questions or concerns.



Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's annual meeting held at the Oxford Senior Center on June 19. For those who couldn't attend in person, here are some of the highlights:

Doris Trader-Moulden and David MacQuaid were re-elected to positions on the Board of Directors. A few hats were switched, and the following line-up is the result:

Brookside Estates HOA Board of Directors

President

Paul Galdes - Conducts Board meetings, oversees all Board duties & projects.

Treasurer

Peny Ward- Monitors HOA finances

Secretary

David MacQuaid - Records and keeps the minutes for all Board Meetings.

Member

Doris Trader-Moulden - Helps with miscellaneous projects.

Member

Dominic Pirocchi - Helps with miscellaneous projects.

The ballot question regarding changing the definition of "quorum" in the Brookside Estates HOA By-Laws passed. A copy of the revised By-Laws are being mailed to each Member. The ballot item asking to change the number of votes needed to amend the Declaration did not pass. The Board decided to go from monthly meetings to meeting every other month. Meetings will still be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Oxford Public Library. The next scheduled meeting is October 16, 2008.

Mark Your Calendar

September 26-27 – Oxford Fest. A weekend of activities celebrating Oxford's 175th anniversary. Come out for hayrides, food, live music and more! South Third Street will be closed from Market Street to Hodgson Street for the event.

October 16 – Brookside Estates HOA meeting. Oxford Public Library, 6:00 pm.

October 23 – The Oxford Area Chamber of Commerce Halloween Parade.

November 4 – General Election Day



Reminder - Political Signs



The Brookside Estates HOA Rules and Regulations don't require individuals to get approval for the display of political signs, but do limit the number of signs and the duration that they can be displayed.

"In addition to "For Sale" signs, Owners may display up to 5 political signs, not to exceed eighteen (18) inches by twenty-four (24) inches. Signs may be displayed no more that 30 days prior to the election and must be removed within 5 days after the election. Hand- lettered political signs are not permitted."



Kindermusik will be offering fall classes in the Oxford Square Shopping Center beginning on September 15. Classes will be offered on Mondays and are for children from birth to 6 years of age. Registration for all programs is going on now, as well as free demonstrations on September 4th. For information, contact Joan Cloutman, director at 610 436-9194 or visit our website: www.kindermusikoxford.com.



**HOT TOPIC:
PROPERTY TAX ELIMINATION**



Are you concerned about the high school taxes in the Oxford Area School District? Are you frustrated with the mismanagement of past and current School Boards and Administrations? Are you alarmed about ever increasing expenditures with no attempt to control costs? If so, you've come to the right place.

If you're like many of us, you love your home, you love this area, and you share the dream that the OASD can be a better place to send your children (and a less expensive place too).

We're not stopping until we have the best (and a reasonably priced) school district in Chester County. But - there's a catch - we can only do it WITH YOUR HELP.

The Oxford Area Taxpayers Alliance is one of a growing number of state-wide groups pushing for legislation to eliminate school property taxes in Pennsylvania.

You can learn more and join the Oxford Taxpayers Alliance at <http://lowerproptax.meetup.com/12/about/> or call 610-924-4512 for more information.



Oxford Police Department News

To keep up with what's going on in the Oxford Police Department, check out their website: <http://theoxfordpd.com/>. Please keep these Police Department contact numbers handy:

EMERGENCY – 911

*Non-emergency during normal business hours – **610 932-2500***

*Non-emergency after normal business hours – **610 268-3171***

The Oxford Police Department has asked that residents be reminded to keep yard debris (grass clippings, leaves, etc) out of the street. This is a Borough Ordinance! These materials clog storm drains and can cause flooding and accidents.

Ask the Board

Question: *My neighbor is violating one of the HOA's Rules and Regulations. How do I file a complaint?*

Answer: *The procedure for registering a complaint is outlined in the Brookside Estates HOA Grievance Procedures, Section 1:*

1.) Complaints Registered by Homeowners:

- a. Must be in writing, signed by the owner registering the complaint, dated, state in detail the nature and facts of the alleged violation, and identify the home by address allegedly in violation.
- b. Written complaint must be forwarded to the office of the Association for review and consideration by the Board of Directors for any action(s) to be taken.
- c. Complaints received that do not meet the criteria outlined in paragraph (a) above will be deemed void and inactionable.

Question: *There is a neighbor in my area who allows their dog to run loose. No attempt is made to clean up after the animal. What can I do about the situation?*

Answer: *According to the Brookside Estates HOA "Rules and Regulations", Homeowners must obey Borough guidelines as they relate to pets:*

Pets

1. Homeowners are subject to any Borough ordinances relating to pets.
 - a. All dogs must be on a leash and under the control of a homeowner or resident at all times.
 - b. Homeowners or residents must immediately pick up and properly dispose of pet waste.

Contact the Oxford Police when you see the dog running loose. If you are aware of who owns the dog, it would be good to provide that information when you place the call.





**Respect Brookside Estates' Wetlands
and Open Space**



A number of complaints have been recently lodged regarding ATV's in the wetland areas along the creek. This is a delicate ecosystem that is easily damaged by bikes, quads or other vehicles. The Brookside Estates HOA Rules and Regulations specifically address the issue:

No unlicensed, gas-powered vehicles, to include motorized bikes, go-carts or ATV's may be operated within the community. With the exception of landscaping equipment, no vehicles may be operated within the open space.

Fines and the costs of repairing soil and plant damage will be levied against individuals found to be in violation of this rule. Please help us keep our wetlands healthy.

The Recipe Box

This refreshing salad comes from <http://whatscookingamerica.net/>. It's a delicious way to use fresh sweet peppers.

Three Pepper Salad

*1 red sweet pepper, cored and seeded
1 yellow sweet pepper, cored and seeded
1 orange sweet pepper, cored and seeded
1 small sweet onion (Walla Walla, Vidalia, or Maui), peeled
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley or fresh basil leaves
Coarse salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 tablespoon rice vinegar
1 tablespoon sesame oil
1/4 cup (2 ounces) crumbled feta cheese*

*Slice sweet peppers into matchstick-size pieces and place in a large bowl. Slice onion into matchstick-size pieces and add to the bowl. Add parsley or basil. Sprinkle with coarse salt and pepper. Add rice vinegar and sesame oil, stirring to mix well. Cover and refrigerate approximately 1 hour before serving. To serve, toss salad again and sprinkle with crumbled feta cheese.
Makes 6 to 8 servings.*

Per Serving - 3.4 Fat Grams, 3.8 Carbohydrate grams, 50.8 calories, .87 WW Points

In the Garden

Composting Basics

You may already be recycling glass, paper, and plastics. Why not go one step further and make your own compost? This information was found at www.Compost-Info-Guide.com

Beginner's Composting Guide: 6 Steps to Great Compost!

With little more than fallen leaves and kitchen scraps you can make dark, humus-rich compost to add to your house plants and garden. Enormous benefits can be had by adding just a little compost to your soil. Adding compost improves soil structure, aeration and water retention. It also adds important micronutrients and increases the bacterial activity in the soil. It's no wonder that so many gardeners refer to compost as "Black Gold" or "Gardeners' Gold". There's simply nothing better you can do for your soil than to add compost.

Step One: Choose A Compost Bin

There are many types of bins used to hold the compost materials. There are commercially made square or cone shaped plastic bins, homemade square bins often made of wood, and rotating tumbler style bins just to name a few. Each type of bin has its' own advantages and disadvantages but all types of bins can be used to make great compost.

Step Two: Select a Location for Your Compost Bin

Choose a site that is level and well drained that is easily accessible year round. Place the bin over bare soil rather than concrete or paving to ensure that worms and other beneficial organisms can make their way into the pile. It's a good idea to remove any grass or plants and turn the soil to a depth of about 6 - 8 inches.

Step Three: Add Good Composting Materials

Generally, composting ingredients can be divided into two categories: Brown Materials such as leaves, hay, straw and paper and Green materials such as grass clippings, fresh manure, vegetable trimmings and most green plant cuttings.

Greens	Browns
* vegetable peelings	* leaves
* fruit peelings	* hay & straw
* grass clippings	* paper & cardboard
* fresh manure	* woody prunings
* green plant cuttings	* eggshells
* annual weeds	* coffee grounds
* young hedge trimmings	* tea bags
	* sawdust

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from Page 6)

Step Four: What Not To Add to Your Compost!

There are a number of materials that you should keep out of your compost pile. Adding some items, like vegetable fats and dairy products will simply slow down the composting process by excluding the oxygen that helpful organisms need to do their job. If you add these materials you will still have usable compost, it will just take much longer.

Adding other materials to your pile is simply dangerous because of the chance of poisoning or disease. Human and pet feces, chemically or pressure treated wood or sawdust, and meat and animal fats fall into this category and should never be added to your compost pile.

Don't Add

- * meat & bones
- * poultry & fish
- * fatty food waste
- * whole eggs
- * dairy products
- * human & pet feces
- * pernicious weeds
- * treated wood

Step Five: Making Great Compost

Making great compost is like making a giant layer cake! Well, not exactly but you will soon see what we mean. Start with a 4 inch layer of brush, twigs, hay or straw at the bottom of the bin. Then add a 4 inch layer of brown material, then a thin layer of finished compost or good garden soil. That's one layer. Then add a 4 inch layer of green material topped with a thin layer of compost or soil. Moisten each layer by misting it lightly with a garden hose. Keep adding materials in alternating layers of greens and browns until the bin is full. Once you have a full bin you can turn the pile every 14 days or so. The more you turn the pile the faster you will have finished compost!

Step Six: Using Your Compost

Congratulations! Your compost is ready to use! It can take anywhere from 14 days to 12 months to produce your finished compost. The time it takes can vary widely depending on the materials and methods used. The point at which the compost is ready varies based on how the compost will be used. In general, though, compost is ready when dark and crumbly and mostly broken down with a pleasant, earthy, soil-like smell to it. For most uses it is acceptable to have some recognizable pieces of leaves or straw remaining. Compost can be used for:

- * House Plants
- * Soil amendment and fertilizer
- * Flower and Vegetable Beds
- * New planting areas
- * Established planting areas
- * Lawn top dressing
- * Compost Tea
- * Around trees

You can now pat yourself on the back. You have put back into the soil. Your house plants, flowers, vegetables and trees will thank you by growing stronger and healthier than ever.

Just For Kids

This puzzle comes from www.kidprintables.com. Can you find the names of the State Capitals hidden below?

Capital Cities

G V H C Q M S D E P N G N
S R H A E B O I S E I O N
T W U L T E I P Y Y T O A
P A A B Z L Q Y D F S N F
A S P O S L A E N I U A Q
U Z R Z X I N N D A A X C
L O Y P V V R A T E B W U
O L D G E H M R T A J L W
P I Z R N S M G A T W T A
R T Z E G A U U E H L Y N
Y N A U T N I A N E L E H
V Q Q W E X Z N K Z W Z B
N G D L I N C O L N U S O

ALBANY
BOISE
HELENA
NASHVILLE

ATLANTA
DENVER
LINCOLN
SALEM

AUSTIN
HARRISBURG
MADISON
STPAUL