



# Woods' Lore

Brookside Woods' Bi-monthly Newsletter

January - February 2009

## Brookside Woods Civic Association

P.O. Box 340052  
Columbus, Ohio  
43234-0052

### Board Members

Mike Boulware  
*President*  
766-2171

Joe Macomber  
*Vice President / Far  
Northwest Coalition*  
792-2300

Wanda Boudinot  
*Treasurer*  
792-9052

Barb Boyd  
*Secretary*  
766-5459

Tom Phillips  
*Parks & Grounds*

Mark Griffith  
*Brookside Safety*  
791-5922

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

Mar 9, 2009 7:30 PM  
The Boulware's Home

All neighbors welcome!

[www.brooksidewoods.org](http://www.brooksidewoods.org)

## President's Report

Dear Residents of Brookside Woods,

Bruce Wallace of ADT Security Systems addressed your board members concerning the increase in the number of burglaries in our neighborhood. He left some valuable tips, offered free installation of the ADT Security System to association members, and his e-mail address; [onebaw@aol.com](mailto:onebaw@aol.com). His phone number is 886-6783; ask for Bruce.

Fritz Monroe, principal of Brookside Elementary School, and Rachel Schultz from the Brookside P.T.A. informed the board of the "Schoolyard Enhanced Learning Program", the community garden on the school grounds, the Monarch butterfly garden and "Project Playground". The board members voted to contribute one hundred dollars to "Project Playground". There is an invitation to all of us in Brookside Woods, regardless of school district, to participate in the community garden. (See "Community Garden" in this issue. -Ed) We also hope to participate in the Monarch butterfly project with attractive plants in our park.

Fritz emphasized that he wanted his school to be a focal point of the community. He offered the school for meetings of non-profit organizations for no charge.

Brookside Elementary is having a garage sale this spring in order to make money for "Project Playground". Fritz volunteered the use of his trailer to haul saleable items to the school. He is hoping that the profits made would be donated or partially donated to the school.

That brings us to the issue of our **Annual Garage Sale** which is held each spring in April. The board is considering the postponement of the neighborhood garage sale this year and asking those holding a sale to work with Brookside Elementary in order to increase the amount of money the school would make. Next year we would resume our own garage sale. We offer this as an alternative. Let us know what you think.

Respectfully,

Mike Boulware  
President

# Brookside Calendar

**March 9, 2009**    **BWCA Board Meeting**, 7:30 PM. at the Boulware's House. Look for the sign in the yard. All neighborhood residents are welcome and encouraged to attend. We hope to see you.

## Community Garden

All are invited to a Community Vegetable Garden Planning and Sharing Meeting in Brookside Elementary's Cafeteria on Thursday, February 19th, from 7:00-8:00. This Three Sisters Garden is a community effort to raise foods for classroom use, nutritional education with children, and provide a harvest for our community and local food banks. All community members are invited! Questions can be directed to Mr. Fritz Monroe, Brookside Principal, at 883-2750.

Thank you,  
Mr. Fritz Monroe  
Brookside Elementary

## Handypeople Available

- Clyde Welch            571-8262            Odd Jobs around the house, power washing, etc
- Dennis Gongwer       565-3487            Exterior and interior jobs, concrete work.
- Dave McConnell       209-5512            Interior/exterior painting, faux finishes, wallpaper, flooring
  
- Kati McGuire            799-8625            Baby Sitting and Pet Sitting
- Darby McMullen       889-1838            Baby Sitting and Pet Sitting
  
- Kelly Dahn               889-5260            Beginner's Piano Lessons

Have a skill to share – send information to Barb Boyd at [secretary@brooksidewoods.org](mailto:secretary@brooksidewoods.org)

## Play Group

Neighborhood Playgroup  
When: Select Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 am  
Who: Infants to 5 year olds and a parent  
Please call Lisa Leonard at 798-8357 or more information.

# Neighborhood Safety

**Ice** and more **ice!** As most of you saw, until the last few days, we had a lot of ice still on the roads and sidewalks. When this happens you should use salt or other products to try to melt the ice away from where people walk. Please always be cautious when you are outdoors in such conditions. It is so easy to slip and hurt yourself.

Be careful if you are using electric or gas **heaters** in your home. Make sure you read the instructions and they are properly vented. Turn them completely off when you are not using them.

Also keep your doors and windows **locked** at night. We still have issues with **break-ins** around the neighborhood. Leave lights on at night if you go on trip. Buy a good timer or two and have your lights on variable settings. Have you're a neighbor pick up your mail and papers. Don't give the appearance of being gone.

A raised level of awareness and common sense are invaluable in preventing and minimizing crime and being safe. If you have an issue, after you made your report to the police, then when you have time, send me an email ([safety@brooksidewoods.org](mailto:safety@brooksidewoods.org)) so we can keep track of any problems.

Mark L. Griffith  
Neighborhood Safety Officer

## Treasurer's Report

To date we have required **snow removal** services on two occasions. Fortunately our balance remains solid and we don't anticipate any problems as we head into spring. We continue to hold off on budgeting for any other improvements until the winter season truly is behind us and we know what our finances are after the membership drive in the spring.

For those of you interested in a **short term volunteer opportunity** to support your community, this may be just it. Volunteer to help with membership dues collections! If you are interested helping in this way, contact one of the board members. As the membership drive approaches in April, remember **our funds are spent on snow removal, maintaining the signs and beds at our entrances, mowing the common grounds, weeding the beds, mulch, lighting at the park and entrances, as well as the plantings.**

Wanda Boudinot  
Treasurer

## Casualty Loss from Hurricane Ike?

A casualty loss can result from the damage, destruction or loss of your property from any sudden, unexpected, and unusual event such as a hurricane that reaches all the way to Ohio. If you had major damage you may be eligible for a tax break. Check with your tax advisor.

# Far Northwest Coalition

As we start a new year there are several issues that I would like to address and not all have to do with the Far Northwest Coalition (FNWC).

I found this quote from American Anthropologist Margaret Mead which I believe is so meaningful for a small community like ours: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." With that I would like to find someone to replace me as Vice-President and Brookside Woods' Representative to the monthly Far Northwest Coalition (FNWC) meetings which are held at the Hard Road Library. I am starting my fifth year and I would like to find a replacement by 2010.

Due to the declining amount of variances, building changes and property issues the FNWC only met five times last year. Far Northwest Coalition President John Best has moved to a new community, so he is no longer able to serve as president. This is a great opportunity for someone new from Brookside Woods to join a new FNWC president. In my four years I have had a chance to meet decision makers from state and city government. It has truly been a rewarding experience.

At the November 25<sup>th</sup> meeting John Best advised us that there is still no decision by Columbus on Claremont Retirement Village's request to provide assisted care.

Devayani Puranik, Senior Planner for Columbus made a presentation to the group concerning the proposed commercial areas in the Far Northwest sector. These commercial overlays will require additional standards to the regular zoning code. The areas affected would run on Bethel Road from Sawmill to Olentangy River Road; on Sawmill from Cranston to Saltergate on the north, and on St. Rt. 161 from Federated to Sawmill. The areas under consideration are only those that abut on the above referenced streets. Lots inside the boundary are not included. Ms. Puranik said that she would be attending the Northwest Civic Association meeting in December to ask for their approval. Overlays only come into play if alterations are being made to buildings or parking areas. For example, a 50% increase in building size, exterior alterations, parking area changes or any encroachment on a right of way. She noted that applicants always the option of going to the Columbus Board of Adjustments for variance requests.

After a lengthy discussion with all in attendance including affected residents, it was moved by the Far Northwest Coalition to approve the commercial overlay as presented. This affects only Commercial Property on Beth Road, State Route 161 and Sawmill Road. The motion was passed by the FNWC.

In December I was contacted by Gary Seman from "This Week News Worthington". He knew that I had been working with Columbus to get the speed limit on Snouffer Road from Sawmill Road east to the railroad tracks reduced from 45 miles per hour to a more reasonable 35. The issue is still pending with the Ohio Department of Transportation. It has now been eighteen months since the young man was run over only a few yards from our property. Mr. Seman put a very nice article together to promote awareness of this dangerous situation.

I hope everyone has noticed that after over a year the Safelite Glass giant banners are at last down. Finally, last fall city voters approved all sections of the capital improvement bond package.

My thanks go out to all of the volunteers that helped with the Christmas bows. It does make the community look festive. However, every year we lose bows to people, the weather, varmints and magic. Presently we are 64 bows short this year. I am going to ask Doug Kruest to coordinate a bow making effort.

Please contact me or Mike Boulware if you are interested in representing Brookside Woods at the FNWC meetings.

Thank you,

Joe Macomber  
Vice President