

NEWSLETTER

HOA Board Meetings

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

Opening on the HOA Board

There is one position open on the homeowners association Board of Directors. If you would like to contribute to the success of your community, please contact one of the HOA Board members. ❖

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. ❖

Olney Library

New operating hours have been announced for the Olney Library. As of Tuesday, July 6, public service hours will be reduced. The new hours will be:

- Monday & Tuesday, 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Wednesday & Thursday, 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM
- Friday & Saturday, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM.

The Olney Library is also scheduled for renovation. The current Library building opened in 1981 and is 16,825 square feet in size. The renovation includes a 4,260 square foot addition, HVAC replacement, bringing all building systems up to applicable building and energy codes, replacement of the windows and doors, pedestrian safety and walkway improvements, and exterior lighting and stormwater management improvements.

Construction on the project is slated to begin in the fall of 2010 with completion in the spring of 2012. There is no funding for an interim facility for Olney when the branch is closed for renovation. Montgomery County Public Libraries is exploring

some options for limited service during this period (i.e., a bookmobile parked on a site in the community). ❖

311 Service

Montgomery County announced the official launch of MC311, the County's new online and telephone information system to access Montgomery County government information and non-emergency services online or by calling a single number: "3-1-1".

Features of the new MC311 Customer Service Center (CSC) include:

- Customers can call one easy-to-remember number in order to access Montgomery County information and services – "3-1-1";
- Customers can also access information and create or track service requests on the new website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311;
- 311 also can be reached from most wireless phones – or residents can reach the Call Center by dialing 240-777-0311, which is also the number to reach MC311 for calls originating outside Montgomery County;
- Hours of Call Center operation are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The self-service website is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week;
- About 30 County government "information and referral" phone numbers are now answered directly by MC311. All other County phones can continue to be dialed direct;
- The TTY line is available by calling 240-773-3556;
- In the event of a community event/emergency, like a water main break, H1N1 flu epidemic, or weather-related incident, the 311 system can quickly incorporate real time information. ❖

Pet Poisons

In 2009, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center in Urbana, Illinois, handled more than 140,000 cases of pets exposed to toxic substances, many of which included everyday household products. Here's a list of the top 10 poisons that affected our pets in 2009:

1) HUMAN MEDICATIONS

For several years, human medications have been first on the ASPCA's list of common hazards. In 2009, the ASPCA managed 45,816 calls involving painkillers, cold medications, antidepressants, and dietary supplements. Pets often snatch pill vials from night stands or gobble up medications dropped on the floor, so it's essential to keep meds in hard-to-reach cabinets.

2) INSECTICIDES

In our effort to battle unwelcome pests, we sometimes put our pets at risk. In 2009, ASPCA toxicologists fielded 29,020 calls related to insecticides. One of the most common involved the misuse of flea and tick products, such as applying the wrong topical treatment to the wrong species. It's vital to talk to your veterinarian before beginning any flea and tick control program.

3) PEOPLE FOOD

Grapes, raisins, avocado, and products containing xylitol, like gum, can disable our pets. They accounted for more than 17,453 cases in 2009. Chocolate, for example, contains large amounts of methylxanthines, which if ingested in significant amounts, can cause vomiting, diarrhea, panting, excessive thirst, urination, hyperactivity, and in severe cases, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, and seizures.

4) PLANTS

Common houseplants were the subject of 7,858 calls to the ASPCA in 2009. Varieties such as azalea, rhododendron, sago palm, lilies, kalanchoe, and schefflera can be harmful to pets. Lilies are toxic to cats and can cause life-threatening kidney failure, even in small amounts.

5) VETERINARY MEDICATIONS

Veterinary medications are often misapplied or improperly dispensed by well-meaning pet parents. In 2009, the ASPCA managed 7,680 cases involving preparations such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, heartworm preventatives, de-wormers, antibiotics, vaccines, and nutritional supplements.

6) RODENTICIDES

Last year, the ASPCA received 6,639 calls about pets who had ingested rat and mouse poisons. Baits used to attract rodents may contain inactive ingredients that are appealing to pets, but can result in potentially life-threatening problems, including bleeding, seizures, or kidney damage.

7) HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS

Household cleaners can be deadly, but too few pet parents take precautions to lock up bleaches, detergents, and disinfectants. Last year, the ASPCA received 4,143 calls related to household cleaning products that, when inhaled by pets, can cause serious gastrointestinal distress and irritation to the respiratory tract.

8) HEAVY METALS

Heavy metals, such as lead, zinc, and mercury, accounted for 3,304 cases of pet poisonings in 2009. Lead is especially pernicious and pets can be exposed to it through consumer products, paint chips, linoleum, and lead dust produced when surfaces in older homes are scraped or sanded.

9) GARDEN PRODUCTS

Fertilizers and garden products can cause problems for outdoor cats and dogs. Last year, the ASPCA fielded 2,329 calls related to fertilizer exposure, which can cause severe gastric upset and even gastrointestinal obstruction.

10) CHEMICAL HAZARDS

In 2009, the ASPCA handled approximately 2,175 cases of pet exposure to chemical hazards found in ethylene glycol antifreeze, paint thinner, drain cleaners, and pool/spa chemicals. Substances in this group can cause gastrointestinal upset, depression, respiratory difficulties, and chemical burns. ❖

Splash into Summer SAFELY!

As the weather heats up, chances are you will be headed to the beach or the pool. Drowning is the second leading killer of children ages 14 and under. You are urged to follow these important tips to ensure safety around the water:

- Never leave children unattended around any body of water (bathtubs, pools, ornamental backyard ponds, etc.). Small children don't think of water as a danger and, by nature, are very curious. Being left alone in or around water without supervision can be fatal. Do not leave water or any other solutions unattended in buckets or other containers - a child can drown in as little as two inches of water.

- Learn to swim. But remember - even good swimmers can drown. Swimming lessons are no substitute for supervision of children and never swim alone.
- Learn CPR. Valuable lifesaving seconds are lost by having to wait for Emergency Medical Services to respond and administer CPR. Four to six minutes without oxygen can cause irreversible brain damage or death.
- Pay attention to local weather conditions and forecasts. Stop swimming at the first indication of bad weather.
- Watch out for the "dangerous too's": ...too tired, too cold, too far from safety, too much sun, too much strenuous activity.
- Always have a phone. Keep a phone (cell or cordless) by the pool or nearby when engaged in recreational water activities so that you can call 9-1-1 in an emergency.
- Know where your children are at all times. Never leave a child unattended in the water or pool area. Don't be distracted by phone calls, chores or conversations. If you leave the pool area, take the child with you.
- Don't rely on substitutes. The use of floatation devices and inflatable toys cannot replace parental supervision. Such devices could suddenly shift position, lose air, or slip out from underneath, leaving the child in a dangerous situation. ❖
- Bone gets stuck in windpipe. This may happen if your dog accidentally inhales a small enough piece of bone. This is an emergency because your dog will have trouble breathing. Get your pet to your veterinarian immediately!
- Bone gets stuck in stomach. It went down just fine, but the bone may be too big to pass out of the stomach and into the intestines. Depending on the bone's size, your dog may need surgery or upper gastrointestinal endoscopy, a procedure in which your veterinarian uses a long tube with a built-in camera and grabbing tools to try to remove the stuck bone from the stomach.
- Bone gets stuck in intestines and causes a blockage. It may be time for surgery.
- Constipation due to bone fragments. Your dog may have a hard time passing the bone fragments because they're very sharp and they scrape the inside of the large intestine or rectum as they move along. This causes severe pain and may require a visit to your veterinarian.
- Severe bleeding from the rectum. This is very messy and can be dangerous. It's time for a trip to see your veterinarian.
- Peritonitis. This nasty, difficult-to-treat bacterial infection of the abdomen is caused when bone fragments poke holes in your dog's stomach or intestines. Your dog needs an emergency visit to your veterinarian because peritonitis can kill your dog.

Knick-knack, paddywhack, don't give your dog a bone

You know that look—those sad canine eyes staring you down as you down a piece of meat. "Gimme a bone, gimme a bone, please, please, please," the eyes plead. Don't do it. Trot that bone right over to the garbage pail and give Sparky a pat on the head. Good dog. Better owner.

There are at least ten reasons not to give your dog a bone, according to the Food and Drug Administration (www.fda.gov). Choking, tooth problems and worse can occur when a dog chews on a bone that splinters or breaks, resulting in a trip to the emergency clinic. Here's what can happen:

- Broken teeth. This may call for expensive veterinary dentistry.
- Mouth or tongue injuries. These can be very bloody and messy and may require a trip to see your veterinarian.
- Bone gets looped around your dog's lower jaw. This can be frightening or painful for your dog and potentially costly to you, as it usually means a trip to see your veterinarian.
- Bone gets stuck in esophagus, the tube that food travels through to reach the stomach. Your dog may gag, trying to bring the bone back up, and will need to see your veterinarian.

For dogs who like to chew, there are plenty of safe alternatives at the pet store. ❖

Babysitting List

Maggie Craig (age 16) 301-260-2847

Justin Stine (age 15) 301-570-4261

To be included in the next newsletter, please send the names of others interested in babysitting to David Sager at davids4001@gmail.com. ❖