

NEWSLETTER

HOA Officers Elected

The homeowners association Board of Directors have elected the following officers for the 2010 calendar year:

President: David Sager

Secretary: Randy Sands

Treasurer: Russ Craig ❖

HOA Board Members

In addition to the officers listed above, the following neighbors are At-Large members of the Board of Directors:

Chuck Leffler

John O'Loughlin

Peter Schmidt

Debbie Stine

Mark Wesolowski ❖

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 Board members. ❖

HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on the following dates: 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. ❖

Yahoo Groups

What's a Yahoo! Group? It's where people with a shared interest meet, get to know each other, and stay informed. All Yahoo Groups may be found at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/>.

Three Yahoo Groups that you may find especially interesting are:

1) Olney Brookeville Exchange (OBX) — The purpose of this exchange is to cultivate a convenient way for people in the Olney/Brookeville area to share information. To join, go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/olneybrookevilleexchange/>

2) Café Montgomery — Similar to OBX, this group is where residents of Montgomery County, MD can have a friendly chat among like-minded people. To join, go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cafeMontgomery/>

3) Olney, MD Freecycle — This group is intended for those in or near the Olney, MD area who want to "recycle" that special something rather than throw it away. Whether it's a purse, a piano, or a box of paper clips, feel free to post it. Or maybe you're looking to acquire something yourself. One person's trash really can be another person's treasure! To join, go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FreecycleOlneyMD/>. ❖

Olney Update

KLNB Retail has announced upgrade plans for two major areas in Olney. The first is Fair Hill (formerly known as the Olney Town Center). Major renovations include the addition of a Harris Teeter supermarket and the Greene Turtle Sports Bar. Plans for the Center may be found at <http://www.klnb.com/propDocs/5786.aspx>.

The second is the Madison Building located at the corner of Route 108 and Georgia Avenue. New occupants will include Five Guys Burgers and Chipotle Mexican Grill. Plans for the Building may be found at <http://www.klnb.com/propDocs/5809.aspx>. ❖

May Garden Tips

by Debbie D. Dillion, Urban Horticulturist, Loudoun County Extension

When planting a new shade tree, consider whether it is messy or neat in appearance, weak- or strong-wooded, and long- or short-lived. Resist the temptation to plant a fast-growing, weak tree for quick shade. Some trees that are messy and weak-wooded include silver maple, hybrid poplar, mimosa, weeping willow, black cherry, and Eastern cottonwood. Better choices are Chinese elm, Japanese zelkova, pin oak, red maple, river birch, tulip poplar, and willow oak.

Rough or careless handling of balled-and-burlapped trees can break the soil ball, damaging or breaking off most of the roots, and result in the death of the tree. Never pick up a B&B tree by its trunk; instead, carry it by the root ball, being gentle when putting it down.

Regularly water newly planted trees and shrubs during the first three to four years after planting to help establish a good root system. They need at least 1 inch of water each week. It is better to water deeply once a week, than to water lightly every day; the former practice encourages deep, drought-resistant roots while the latter practice encourages surface roots that may suffer during dry spells. Apply an organic mulch to conserve moisture and control weeds.

Other tips to remember:

- Prune out winter-killed wood on trees and shrubs by cutting back to green wood after new growth begins.
- Watering with soaker hoses or drip irrigation will reduce the spread of blackspot in roses.
- Hydrangea is one gift plant that transplants well into the garden after its flowers fade. When the weather warms, plant in well-drained soil in full sun to partial shade. Don't be surprised if the next year's flowers are a different color than the first year. Blue or pink hydrangea color is dependent on the pH of the soil. Alkaline soil produces pink flowers; acidic soil produces blue flowers. White hydrangeas are not affected by soil pH. ❖

Facts About Clovers

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the highest number of leaves found on a clover is 14! One estimate suggests that there are about 10,000 regular three-leaf clovers for every lucky four-leaf clover. Legend says that each leaf of the clover means something: the first is for hope, the second for faith, the third for love, and the fourth for luck. ❖

Babysitting 101

Nervous about hiring your first babysitter? Not quite sure what you should do to prepare him or her — and yourself — for the event? Keep these suggestions in mind:

- If possible, set up an introductory meeting before your babysitter actually watches your kids. Introduce him or her to your children; see how they interact and whether they seem comfortable. Also introduce the family dog to your sitter to test the same comfort zone.
- Do a quick tour around the house, pointing out key areas such as cabinets or drawers where baby/ children's items are located. Also show locations of telephones and remember to warn the sitter of any special locks or windows that cannot be used for escape in case of an emergency.
- Have the following information written down and accessible in the event of an emergency: family name; children's names; house address with nearest cross street; instructions on how to contact the parents; phone numbers of close relatives and neighbors; doctor's name and phone number.
- Write down any instructions about medicines to be given to the children — how much and what time.
- Let the sitter know whether or not children can have anything to eat or drink before bed. Let the sitter know of any food allergies that the children may have.
- Generally, if you plan on being gone for more than four or five hours, phone home once to check in on the sitter and children. ❖

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. ❖

Want To Get Away? Be Wary Of Travel Scams!

If you're already planning your summer vacation, here's some advice from the good folks at the Consumer Information Center (www.pueblo.gsa.gov) about how to avoid travel scams that will waste your money and ruin your holiday:

- Deal only with travel agencies or tour companies that have a good standing. Ask if they belong to a professional association. Call your Better Business Bureau chapter to find out whether there have been any complaints filed against the company.
- Shop around. Never rush into booking a vacation without getting offers from at least two agencies or tour providers. Think of it as being like car shopping — find out how far your buck will stretch before you buy.
- Beware of offers that are too good to be true. Be leery of “free” trips or ridiculously cheap prices. If you're offered a “two-for-one” deal, a “free stay,” or such, make sure to find out what the deal really involves.
- Ask, and ask again. Get as many details as you can about each travel offer. Be sure you fully understand all the terms before agreeing to buy. Ask for specific names of airlines, hotels, restaurants, tour providers, or any other vendor mentioned as part of the package. Also ask whether there's a cancellation policy.
- Get all promises in writing. Consider trip insurance for additional protection, too.
- If you're asked to pay in advance, ask if you can pay a deposit. CIC adds that using a credit card is safest because of your right to dispute the charges if the services were misrepresented or never delivered. ❖

First aid tips for dog owners

By Dr. Kristy Conn

With the warm weather finally setting in, animal emergency clinics are starting to see increasing caseloads. Many emergency clinicians call the time of year from April to September “trauma season.” As the weather warms up, many dogs find themselves spending more time outdoors with their owners and this leads to more accidents. This is an excellent time to familiarize oneself with the basic principles of first aid.

Always be prepared! Make a first aid kit and have it on hand wherever you go. Consider having multiple kits, such as a large fully stocked kit for home and a smaller kit for the car or family outings. Within your kit you should have: a rectal thermometer, lubrication such as Vaseline or KY jelly, tweezers, nail clippers, styptic powder, hemostats, a muzzle, a blanket, bandaging material, and certain medications. For bandaging material, you should keep a roll of gauze (can also be used to create a

makeshift muzzle if needed), square gauze, non-stick pads, first aid tape, and/or Vetwrap. For medications, be sure to have a disinfectant such as Betadine or Novalsan to clean wounds, a triple antibiotic ointment such as Neosporin, cortisol cream for itchy bug bites, eye wash solution in case you need to flush your dog's eye, and hydrogen peroxide in case your dog ingests something potentially toxic and you need to induce vomiting. Keep in mind that vomiting should only be induced after consulting your veterinarian or poison control. Keep an eye on the expiration dates on medications and replace them whenever they expire.

When an emergency occurs, take a moment to look around and fully assess the situation. For example, if your dog was hit by a car, don't immediately rush out in traffic. You won't do him any good if you end up in the hospital yourself. Carefully approach your pet and assess his condition. Is he breathing? If not, start CPR. Is he bleeding? Apply direct pressure to the wound, and so on.

Remember to handle your injured dog gently and carefully. Even the gentlest dog may bite when scared or in pain. Keep your face away from the mouth and resist the urge to hug your dog to comfort him as this may scare him more or worsen his injuries. Use a calm soothing voice to reassure your dog and, if possible, pet him in area away from the injury. If you need to transport him and his wounds are painful you should put on a muzzle. If your dog is small, wrap him in a blanket or towel and carry him. Larger dogs can be transported on makeshift stretchers such as a board, a sled or toboggan, or even a large blanket to make a hammock-style sling.

Keep a list of important phone numbers handy in case of an emergency. These numbers should include your regular veterinarian, the local animal emergency clinic, and the number for the ASPCA animal poison control center, (888) 426-4435, which is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get a decal for your window in the event an emergency occurs while you are not at home. This decal will allow rescue personnel to know you have pets inside that may need attention.

Consider taking a class in pet first aid and learn animal CPR. Classes are readily available online and through community educational centers, libraries, pet stores, and sometimes even your local veterinarian.

Finally, remember that first aid is not intended to be a substitute for veterinary care, it is meant to stabilize the animal until proper veterinary care can be given. Any first aid care given to your dog should be followed by immediate veterinary attention, either by your regular veterinarian or your local animal emergency clinic. ❖