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# NEWSLETTER

## HOA Officers Elected

The homeowners association Board of Directors have elected the following officers for the 2011 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

Bret 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: Tuesday, June 14 (Stine residence); Wednesday, September 14 (O'Loughlin residence); and Thursday, November 17 (Schmidt 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. ❖

## Safety Tips – Flash Floods

We all need to be alert to changing weather conditions and should be prepared for possible flash flooding during the Spring as storm systems bring heavy rains. to the area

If a flash flood warning is issued, act immediately. Don't wait for high water to dictate your course of action.

Know your location when you are driving. If you needed rescue, would you be able to direct emergency crews to your location? Distracted driving can lead to a situation where you are stranded and unable to direct emergency crews to you. Be alert!

Never drive through a flooded road or bridge. Back up and try a different route. In many cases, it takes far less than a foot of water to incapacitate a vehicle. It may stall, leaving you stranded, and depending on the level of water, you may not be able to open a vehicle door. Do not underestimate the power of moving water.

Stay on high ground. If your car is trapped, get out if you can safely do so. Move to higher ground. If you're driving through a hilly area or place that is subject to flooding along a stream and hear a flash flood warning, go to high ground – never try to outrun a flash flood.

Watch for flooding at bridges and dips in the road. Never drive where water is over bridges or roads. Turn around. The bridges or the road could suddenly be washed out. If you're driving at night be especially careful. Often visibility is limited due to wind and rain. If you should drive into water, don't try to drive out of it. Get out of the car and safely return to higher ground.

Often what you can't see below the surface of the water is far more dangerous than the high levels of that water. Remember that rocks, tree limbs and other debris can be caught in moving water and can be dangerous if you are forced to walk, wade or swim through flood waters.

If you have to walk or wade through flood water, use a stick to poke the ground in front of you with each step. It can help you determine water levels, the bottom surface and the safest possible way to get to higher ground.

Remember that flash floods can come without warning, and sometimes without weather. Be alert and heed all warnings and recommendations from officials.

From FEMA's website, some further information about driving through flooded roadways:

Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.

A foot of water will float many vehicles.

Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pick-ups

### **DON'T DROWN – TURN AROUND!**

Nearby roads that are subject to periodic flooding:

- MD 97 (Georgia Ave) at Reddy Branch - N. of Brookeville
- Brighton Dam Rd at Hawlings River - NE of Brookeville
- Goldmine Rd at Hawlings River - E of Olney
- Zion Rd at Hawlings River - E. of Laytonsville
- Elton Farm Rd at Hights Branch - N. of Sunshine
- Howard Chapel Rd at Hights Branch - N. of Sunshine ❖

### **Can My Pet Make Me Sick?**

by Dr. Steve Velling, Ashburn Village Animal Hospital

For pet owners, caring means sharing. We share our lives and homes with our pets, as well as our emotions, and that's the way it should be. But when it comes to diseases, sharing is definitely not caring. The good news is that with some due diligence and common sense, you, your family, and your pets can prevent contagious (or "zoonotic") diseases from becoming a problem.

Some people may have a distorted view of what may be transmittable from a pet to people. Some think that they have nothing to worry about, while others feel that they are at risk of catching everything imaginable. For instance, while contracting strep throat from a dog is possible (though exceedingly rare), there are no reports of any cat ever having or passing strep

throat to a human. Another example is toxoplasmosis. This disease is the reason that pregnant women are told to avoid cleaning litter boxes. While I don't want to deter your significant other from doing the cleaning for you, you are more likely to be exposed to this disease from contaminated soil while gardening. In this case, wearing gloves and washing your hands is the best advice for prevention. Some other diseases of note are:

- Rabies. This deadly disease has been reduced to being mostly seen in foxes, skunks, and raccoons, but it is still a potential threat. The easy fix is to have your veterinarian vaccinate your pet, which is required by law.
- Bartonellosis. Also known as "cat scratch fever", this disease is passed by a flea-infested cat scratching or biting someone and passing along the bacteria found in flea feces. Use topical flea preventives on your feline friend.
- Intestinal parasites (roundworms, hookworms). These are fairly common in pets, especially when young, so make sure you deworm your pet even if you don't see the worms themselves. They like to stay in the intestines, passing only their microscopic eggs.
- Salmonella. This bacteria seems to make headlines now and then when there is an outbreak of contaminated meat, but this can be found in some raw meat or improperly made pet food, not to mention from the feces of reptiles. Wash your hands after feeding your pets, or after handling your snake/iguana/turtle.

Preventing disease in your pet with regular veterinary care is the best way to avoid disease transmission from Fluffy, Fido, or Lizzy. And good hygiene and diligent hand washing will allow you and your best friend to continue to share everything except diseases—just as it should be.

P.S. Even people with compromised immune systems can have pets. Studies show the benefits of increased endorphins and lower stress levels outweigh the risks, provided that person washes their hands and avoids handling any stool. ❖

### **Babysitting List**

Maggie Craig (age 16) 301-260-2847  
 Chezley Polk (age 16) 301-924-1908  
 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](mailto:davids4001@gmail.com).