

# NEWSLETTER

## HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. The last meeting of this year will be held on Wednesday, November 17 at the 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. ❖

## Notice from the SHA

The Maryland State Highway Administration recently sent a letter to the HOA to inform us that SHA personnel may require temporary access to our property in connection with the ICC Reddy Branch and Manor Oaks reforestation project. The content of the letter is presented below:

Dear BROOKEVILLE FARMS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION INC:

As you may be aware, the State Highway Administration (SHA) is currently conducting environmental analyses, engineering studies, and related activities including field research and survey activities for the Intercounty Connector (ICC) project. As this project moves forward, representatives including SHA personnel or consultant personnel (under SHA direction) may be required to temporarily enter onto your property. The privilege of entering onto your property is provided for by the Annotated Code of Maryland, § 12-111 of the Real Property Article. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the need to access your property and to request your cooperation. Access to the property is required to perform environmental analyses, to gather field data, and to perform engineering activities. In general, these activities involve multiple SHA offices that perform activities related to specific areas of expertise that occur at different times in the evolution of a project. As a

result, access to your property may be required several times and may span a period of several years, depending upon the project needs. The SHA is committed to reducing the inconvenience that may occur as a result of these activities. The following information should address many of the questions that you may have concerning this project and the need for access.

- Since the purpose of the studies or activities is to gather data, our field personnel gathering information are not usually aware of all the project details. Consequently, they may not be able to answer some of your questions concerning the proposed improvement. They are not being evasive, but they may not be able to answer your questions because the final design often cannot be determined until after all the data has been collected and analyzed. The Project Representative listed below is the best person to contact for answers to questions and status information.
- All SHA employees carry identification cards and are required to display them upon request. Consultant employees are also required to display identification upon request.
- All personnel have been instructed to take every possible precaution to assure that your property is not permanently damaged in any way while conducting these studies. If damage does occur, the SHA will make proper restitution.
- To assist us further, it would be helpful if you would point out to our field personnel any conditions on your property such as underground utilities, freshly planted crops, or other features that might not be readily apparent.

Personnel may access your property to perform specific activities, but not limited to: field surveys, wetland delineation, archeological studies, soil testing, and subsurface investigations which include soil and groundwater evaluation. This letter is a continuation of our effort to better inform property owners of our work; it is SHA policy to re-contact property owners for the purpose of re-entry when

more than one year has elapsed since the previous contact.

The SHA appreciates your patience as we work to better understand the environmental conditions of the project corridor. Please keep all children and animals away from the work areas, especially after dark, as equipment may be left on site during the testing period.

If you have any questions concerning this project, please contact Mr. John Sales, Community Liaison, toll-free at 1-866-462-0020 or via email at [iccproject@sha.state.md.us](mailto:iccproject@sha.state.md.us). We thank you for your cooperation concerning these project activities. ❖

## Co-Existing With Coyotes



### Coyotes in Brookeville?

Coyotes are an extremely adaptable wildlife species that survive well in urban environments - including our town. Coyotes have recently been seen in Brookeville.

### Why are coyotes here?

Many people believe coyotes are here because we have “taken over their home.” Actually, we have created habitat for coyotes by expanding urban areas. Large rodent populations, accessible garbage and plenty of green spaces are all reasons why coyotes may call Brookeville home.

Historically coyotes were a Western United States species. They were first documented in Maryland in 1972, with the highest population being in Western Maryland and on the Eastern Shore. Population increases are expected.

### What do coyotes look like?

- Large erect ears, narrow muzzles and golden brown eyes
- Bushy tails held down when in motion

- Reddish-yellow, tan or gray general appearance
- Bib-like patch of white fur around lower jaw and neck
- Darker gray and black hairs on upper body and lighter cream-colored undersides
- Coyotes in our region weigh between 35 to 50 pounds
- They often appear heavier due to a thick, double coat of fur

### What do they eat?

In rural wild environments, up to 70 percent of a coyote’s diet consists of small mammals (mice, voles, rabbits, etc.). The remaining 30 percent is a combination of fruits, vegetables, insects, fish, birds, eggs and other available items. In urban areas, coyotes also prey on rats, squirrel, geese, fawns, garbage, yard fruit and small domestic pets.

### When are coyotes most active?

Coyotes can be active anytime of day or night. Coyote young are born in the spring, and food requirements of the nursing females and growing young remain high until late summer. At the same time, people and their pets spend more time outdoors as the weather becomes warmer. Therefore, the possibility of coyote encounters increases during summer.

### Conflicts with coyotes

Conflicts between people and coyotes in Brookeville are very rare. Only a handful of people have reported coyote sightings in Brookeville and there have been no reports of coyote bites in Brookeville or elsewhere in Maryland. On average, roughly 1,200 animal bites are reported in Montgomery County each year, and none of these have been attributed to a coyote (as reported by the Montgomery County Police, Department of Animal Services). Comparatively speaking, the risk posed to humans by coyotes is slight.

### Do not feed coyotes

Coyotes in the urban environment have an adequate food supply and are capable of surviving in this environment without our help. In fact, by feeding coyotes you put yourself, your neighborhood and the coyote at risk. A coyote that becomes dependent on humans for food may become too bold around humans, bite someone and have to be destroyed.

### Report aggressive coyotes

Aggressive coyotes should be immediately reported to the Montgomery County Police at 301-279-8000. If a coyote behaves aggressively toward humans, it will be removed from the neighborhood.

### Be prepared!

If you are concerned about encountering an aggressive coyote, you may want to keep a deterrent handy. Deterrents can include rocks, pots and pans, tennis balls, tin cans filled with nails or coins to make loud noise and a super-soaker filled with vinegar.

**If a coyote approaches you:**

- Appear to be as Big, Mean and Loud as possible
- Make yourself appear larger (stand up if sitting)
- Wave your arms, throw objects (not food) at the coyote and use your deterrent
- Shout in a deep, loud and aggressive voice

If the coyote continues to approach, DO NOT RUN or turn your back on the coyote. Continue to exaggerate the above gestures while maintaining eye contact and moving toward an area of human activity

**When are coyotes a risk to people?**

Although naturally curious, coyotes are usually timid animals and normally run away if challenged. Coyotes can be a risk to people if they have become comfortable around humans, usually as the result of feeding.

It is not normal for coyotes to attack or pursue humans, especially adults; it is a learned response to human behavior. You can discourage coyotes from feeling comfortable around you by responding to their presence and eliminating coyote attractants (food sources) from your yard and neighborhood.

**Remove coyote attractants in your area**

Coyotes should not feel comfortable around people or their homes. If a coyote is comfortable in your neighbor's yard, it is also comfortable in your yard, around your children and your pets. If you see a coyote in your neighborhood, you should do your best to make it feel unwelcome. You can discourage coyotes from hanging around your home by scaring coyotes off your property and by removing coyote attractants, such as:

- Accessible garbage or compost, including fruit that has fallen from trees or shrubs
- Outdoor pet food and water (stored or fed)
- Rodent habitat: neglected yards, garages or sheds

Make sure your neighbors and others in your neighborhood do the same.

**Keeping your pets safe**

Recognizing the risk is the first step toward preventing conflict between coyotes and your pet. Coyotes will prey on outdoor cats and small dogs. Pets have been reportedly taken from backyards, open spaces and even right off the leash. There are, however, some things you can do to reduce the risk to your pets:

If you own a cat: The only way to guarantee your cat's safety is to keep it indoors. Removing coyote attractants from your yard and neighborhood will reduce the probability of a coyote visiting your home. Outdoor cats face potential death from

cars, diseases, parasites, raccoons and dogs, in addition to coyotes.

If you own a small dog: If you are aware of coyotes in your neighborhood, you can greatly reduce the risk of conflict if you:

- Keep your dog on a short leash while outside and avoid extension leashes
- Supervise your dog when it is off-leash in the yard
- Walk your dog at times and places that coincide with high pedestrian traffic
- Keep your dog in front of you; if your dog stops, keep an eye on it
- Dog walk with other people

If you own a large dog: Coyotes pose less risk to medium-to-large-sized dogs. Keep large dogs on leash, except in designated areas, and discourage your dog from feeling comfortable with coyotes by preventing it from "playing" or interacting with a coyote.

**Why co-exist with coyotes?**

Coyotes have adapted to urban lifestyles because city environments support them. The majority of coyotes continue to feed primarily on the millions of mice and rats in Maryland and are just one part of our fortunately diverse ecosystem.

Eradication programs in North American cities have proven to be expensive failures. While eradication may remove (kill) individual animals, the coyote habitat remains and will be filled by other coyotes. Trapping and poisoning programs are not practical in urban areas because they can not discriminate between coyotes, children, pets and other wildlife. These programs expose all of them to the same risk.

Coexistence is not an option if an individual coyote has threatened a person. Any aggressive coyote should be removed from the area. Even after a problem coyote has been removed, the environment and human behavior that led to the coyote's actions remain.

If people are feeding coyotes and allowing them to feel comfortable around homes, people and pets, problem coyotes will occur again and again. ❖

**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](mailto:davids4001@gmail.com). ❖