

# NEWSLETTER

## HOA Board Meetings

Regular Board of Directors meetings are held from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on the following dates: Thursday, September 14 (Thear residence); and Tuesday, November 14 (Milke residence). All homeowners are welcome to attend. ❖

## HOA Web Site

The Brookeville Farms HOA web site is located at [www.bfmdhoa.info](http://www.bfmdhoa.info). This site includes information pertaining to the HOA such as Architectural Review forms, minutes from previous board meetings, current and previous newsletters, as well as contact information for board members. ❖

## Community E-Mail List

The Brookeville Farms community maintains an e-mail distribution list to make it easier to communicate with our neighbors. The e-mail address is "[bfneighbors@bfmdhoa.info](mailto:bfneighbors@bfmdhoa.info)". This list has been used to find recommendations for service providers, find carpool buddies, and to participate in group purchasing agreements (like, propane and whole-house generators). The Homeowners Association newsletter is also distributed to this list.

To add your e-mail address to the list do the following:

- Using your web browser, go to the HOA web site - [www.bfmdhoa.info](http://www.bfmdhoa.info).
- Select "E-mail List" from the left column.
- Fill in the form at the bottom of the page. ❖

## Summer is Here

*by Chrysa Thear*

As summer is here, the community is out and about more on bikes, walking, running, and having cookouts. It is important time to highlight to the community several reminders to help with a safe and enjoyable summer season.

1.) Dumping, of any kind, is not allowed in the common areas of the community. Yard waste has been dumped on common areas several times this year and is unsightly. Article VII, Section 8,

Paragraph O, of the Covenants state that no member shall make any private or exclusive or proprietary use of any of the common areas except with the specific prior written approval of the Architectural and Environmental Review Committee. Furthermore, the common areas are reforestation areas governed by state and county laws and regulations that prohibit the concentrated dumping of yard waste without the written approval of the County Planning Board. Yard trim may be composted on your own property or, better yet, put out for County recycling (see [www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/DepHowDoI/material.aspx](http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/DepHowDoI/material.aspx)).

2.) Pooper Scooper law: The bike path is being used daily by residents and visitors. We are seeing an increased amount of dog poop on the bike path and street. This is unsightly and unneighborly. As a dog owner, "the Pooper Scooper" law states that if your dog does his business anywhere other than your yard (including the neighborhood common areas) you have to pick it up each and every time or risk getting a \$100 fine. The poop can be placed in a plastic bag. As long as this bag is then placed inside another plastic bag it's acceptable to put it in your regular household trash. Please think of your neighbors and friends that are enjoying the bike path and the neighborhood.

3.) Grass clippings: With the summer comes the weekly mowing of our properties either by the homeowner or their contractors. Grass clippings and yard debris should not be blown on the bike path or the street. This is not only unsightly and messy on shoes, but unsafe when it rains. Please clean up your clippings and debris immediately after mowing, and ask your contractors to do the same.

4.) Safe Speed: It is important to remember that Bordly Drive is only 30 MPH. Daily we see this road used as a speedway, and accidents have happened every year. The board is working with the state and county to come up with measures to

slow down the excessive speeding on this road. Also, secondary roads like Riggs Hill Way and Lubar Way are NOT 30 MPH but are 25 MPH according to the Department of Transportation. Please slow down as these roads do not have bike paths, and are used regularly by residents for running, walking and biking to the bike paths. Parents, please remind your teenagers too!

As we are seeing an increase in homes listed for sale, we want to project a safe, clean, and welcoming community for potential new homeowners. Enjoy the summer by following these simple guidelines to assist in making the community a clean and safe place for our neighbors and our visitors. ❖

## Canine Influenza

Canine influenza (CI), or dog flu, is a highly contagious viral infection affecting dogs and also cats. At present, two strains of canine influenza virus have been identified in the United States: H3N8 and H3N2. Canine H3N2 influenza was first identified in the United States in March 2015 following an outbreak of respiratory illness in dogs in the Chicago area. In May 2017, canine H3N2 influenza was diagnosed in dogs in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Louisiana, and Illinois.

Canine influenza is transmitted through droplets or aerosols containing respiratory secretions from coughing, barking and sneezing. Dogs in close contact with infected dogs in places such as kennels, groomers, day care facilities and shelters are at increased risk of infection. CI can be spread indirectly through objects (e.g., kennels, food and water bowls, collars and leashes) or people that have been in contact with infected dogs. It is important to clean and disinfect objects that have been in contact with an infected dog to avoid exposing other dogs to the virus. Likewise, people who have been in contact with an infected dog should wash their hands and clean their clothing to avoid spreading the virus. The virus can remain viable (alive and able to infect) on surfaces for up to 48 hours, on clothing for 24 hours, and on hands for 12 hours.

Canine influenza virus causes an acute respiratory infection in dogs. There is no "season" for canine influenza, and infections can occur any time of the year. Canine influenza virus infection often resembles canine infectious tracheobronchitis ("kennel cough"). The most common clinical sign is a cough that persists for 10 to 21 days despite

treatment with antibiotics and cough suppressants. Affected dogs may have a soft, moist cough or a dry cough similar to that induced by kennel cough. Nasal and/or ocular discharge, sneezing, lethargy and anorexia may also be observed. Many dogs develop a purulent nasal discharge and fever (104-105o F).

Veterinary expertise is required to determine treatment options and the best course of treatment. Treatment for CI, as for most viral diseases, is largely supportive. To prevent transmission of the virus, dogs infected with canine H3N2 influenza as well as other dogs in the household should be isolated for 4 weeks. Vaccines are available for both H3N8 and H3N2 canine influenza. A bivalent vaccine offering protection against both strains is also available. Currently, there are no canine influenza vaccines approved for use in cats. Vaccination can reduce the risk of a dog contracting canine influenza. Vaccination may not all together prevent an infection, but it may reduce the severity and duration of clinical illness.

Canine influenza was recently diagnosed in a veterinary clinic in Laurel, MD. Therefore, dog owners whose dogs regularly are in close contact with a number of other dogs, such as by visiting a dog park, day care facility, etc. should consider vaccinating their dog(s) for CI. ❖

## Heat Exhaustion and Heatstroke

This summer is going to be hot. Extreme heat brings with it the possibility of heat-induced illnesses. During the hot, humid summer weather, the body's internal temperature can rise and can result in heat exhaustion and heatstroke. If not treated quickly, heat exhaustion can progress into heat stroke, which requires immediate medical care and can be fatal.

### Signs and Symptoms:

#### **Heat Exhaustion**

- Severe thirst
- Muscle weakness
- Nausea, sometimes vomiting
- Irritability
- Headache
- Increased sweating
- Cool clammy skin
- Elevation of body temperature to 105°F
- Weak, rapid pulse

#### **Heat Stroke**

- Severe, throbbing headache
- Weakness, dizziness or confusion
- Difficulty breathing

Decreased responsiveness or loss of consciousness

Little or no sweating

Flush, hot, dry skin

Elevation of body temperature to 105°F

#### What to Do:

If the person has a temperature of 105 degrees Fahrenheit or more or shows signs and symptoms of heatstroke, seek emergency medical care immediately. In cases of heat exhaustion and while waiting for help:

Move the person to a cool place indoors or under the shade of a tree.

Loosen clothing.

Have the person lie down. Elevate feet slightly.

If the person is alert, place in cool (not cold) bath water.

If the person is alert, give frequent sips of cool, clear fluids (clear juice or sports drinks are best).

If the person is vomiting, turn his or her body to the side to prevent choking.

Monitor the person's temperatures.

Think Prevention! Be sensible about how much you exert yourself in hot weather.

Heat Exhaustion is the result of excessive heat and dehydration. Heat Stroke is a medical emergency! ❖

## Is Your Dog Afraid of Thunderstorms?

Picture this: As the skies darken overhead, an otherwise amiable dog is panting and pacing around the house with his tail tucked between his legs. When the first crash of thunder hits, he bolts into the bathroom and curls up tightly in the tub, where he remains, panting and trembling, until the storm passes. Sound familiar? Does your dog behave this way during storms? Not to worry, pet parents, the ASPCA has some advice for helping your pooch overcome his fear.

Any dog can develop a fear of thunderstorms, but herding breeds seem more susceptible to developing noise phobias. Age is another risk factor: Dogs who are afraid of thunderstorms can become more distressed with each successive season, so it's smart to start working with your dog as soon as you notice his fearful behavior. If your adult dog has suddenly become afraid of storms, please start with a visit to your vet. A sick dog may become more sensitive to

sounds, and no amount of behavior modification will help if your dog's fear is medically based.

Try the following strategies to reduce your dog's anxiety during storms. For dogs with mild thunderstorm phobia, these tricks may get rid of the problem entirely.

- Let your dog take refuge inside. Storms aren't as loud and scary with four walls around you! Bringing your dog into the house also ensures that he won't try to escape from the yard.
- Having some human company often calms panicked dogs. If your calm, quiet touch brings him comfort or if he comes to you for security, it's perfectly fine to pet and reassure him.
- Try turning on some calming music, a TV or radio, or a fan to muffle storm noises. Shutting the drapes may help if lightning also frightens your dog.
- More active distractions may help, too. See if your dog will eat from a food-filled toy, such as a stuffed Kong, scatter treats in the house for him to find, or try playing tug or fetch with his favorite toy.

If your dog's quality of life is seriously impaired by thunderstorms, consider speaking with a vet about anti-anxiety medication. Medication can enhance the effectiveness of other efforts to help your dog cope with his fear. A technique called desensitization and counterconditioning can also help. This technique involves gradually increasing the volume of an audio recording of a thunderstorm to help your dog become accustomed to it, while at the same time associating the sound of thunder with good things, like treats and toys. Additionally, there are a number of products on the market that may help your dog remain calm during storms, including close-fitting body wraps, noise-reducing headphones and herbal remedies. ❖

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." -- Eleanor Roosevelt

"Defeat is not the worst of failures. Not to have tried is the true failure." -- George Edward Woodberry