



THE DOGGY ISSUE (AND EARTH DAY)

This issue is dedicated to the furry and lovable canine members of our community. They are our guards and companions, our friends. They take us places, make us exercise, and introduce us to new friends. Old Mill Community is home to many dogs. Even those of us that do not live with a dog, are comforted by the familiar sight of a neighbor walking side by side with their loyal companion, or a lovable furball playing with the kids.



SAFE DOG, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD

A lot of responsibility comes with dog ownership. And the many things we do to keep our dogs safe and healthy will also keep our Old Mill Community safe and healthy. In fact, many best practices of dog ownership are also regulations of Fairfax County, and not following them may incur in fees.

In Fairfax County, dogs in public spaces must be leashed at all times, with few exceptions like in dog parks. OMCC Bylaws also require all dogs must be kept on a leash when in the common areas of our community. This is a good practice because it protects the dog from dangers, for example cars. It also protects our human neighbors from accidental dog bitess, or in some cases from health issues like allergies. Dog bites can cause pain and injury, but they can also spread germs that cause infection. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), nearly 1 in 5 people bitten by a dog requires medical attention. Any dog can bite especially when scared or nervous.

The OMC Bylaws indicate that the owner of a dog is responsible for removing excrement deposited by their dog in common areas, sidewalks, streets, playgrounds, and grass areas adjacent to a lot or sidewalk.

Cleaning up after your dog helps to keep the environment clean and reduces the risk of diseases spreading to people and other animals. The CDC recommends to always pick up dog poop and dispose of it properly. Dog poop should be picked up, even in your own yard, and especially in areas where children may play. Some diseases spread by poop can affect both the dog and the human owner.

MORE FAIRFAX COUNTY PET REGULATIONS

County regulations pertaining to dogs are enforced by the Animal Protection Police. All dogs 4 months and older must be licensed by the County and have a current rabies vaccination. Licenses are good for one year and must be renewed by January 31. An unlicensed dog is a class IV misdemeanor and may incur a fine up to \$250. County regulations also limit the number of dogs that may live on a property based on square footage. In our neighborhood, that translates to a maximum of two dogs per home.

EARTH DAY COMMUNITY CLEANUP

Please join us for our annual Earth Day Community Cleanup, on Sunday April 25 (rain date May 2), 11am - 1pm. We will meet at

Box Oak Ct. (parking circle). Trash bags will be provided. Please bring your own mask and gloves and protective wears. Please keep social distance and follow CDC guidelines for COVID-19. This is community clean up only, Do NOT bring your household trash or any appliances.



Earth Day 2021

at Old Mill Community

Please join us and let's clean up our
Community

on **Sunday, April 25**
at **11am - 1pm**

Meeting Location will be at Box Oak Ct.
(parking circle)

CORRECTIONS TO WINTER RESIDENT NEWS

Recyclables are picked up on Mondays, not on Thursdays as indicated previously. Yard debris (grass, leaves, small pieces of plant debris) must be disposed of in paper bags. Regular trash must be disposed of in plastic bags. Recyclables go in a bin.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Vaccines against COVID-19 are now available to Fairfax County residents through the Fairfax County Health Department. **If you are in one of the eligible groups, you can register at their website or by calling 703-324-7404.** The following groups are now eligible for the vaccine:

- Residents 65 years old or more
- Resident 16-64 with a high-risk medical condition
- Health care workers
- Police, fire and HAZMAT
- Corrections and Homeless Shelter
- Childcare, Pre K-12 Teachers/Staff
- Food, agriculture, veterinarians
- Manufacturing
- Grocery store workers

Be aware that this is a fluid situation and vaccine availability will change as more people get vaccinated and more vaccines are available. **Use of masks and social distance is still necessary since not all are yet vaccinated.** Complete vaccination requires 2 doses; those with both doses may not need to use masks or social distance in some situations. Please go to the Fairfax County COVID-19 website for more information: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus>.

What Happens When Someone Gets the COVID-19 Vaccine?



- The vaccination will be given by a **HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL**. There are currently a few vaccines that have been approved.



- The vaccination is given **IN THE ARM**. Pain, redness and soreness at the injection site may happen.



- Most short-term side effects are **MILD AND WILL GO AWAY** in a couple of days.



- Side effects are a sign that your body's immune system is working to build up **PROTECTION AGAINST COVID-19**.



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