SPRING NEWSLETTER & MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Greetings-
It's been a couple of months since our last newsletter so I want to catch you up on the latest happenings at Westgrove Dog Park.

1).  General meeting. Our next general meeting will be on Tuesday, April 12, 6:30-8:00, at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library large conference room. The agenda will include a call for votes to fill an at-large PACK Board position (more on this below), updates on park maintenance activities and a vote on use of funds available in our budget for either a) installation of pavers at the entrance to the park (where mud tends to accumulate in the rainy season), or b) installation of a sun shade that could provide relief from sun exposure during the summer months.
2. Water. The water installation plan is moving forward with the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) working with 1) the local water authority to have a water meter installed, and 2) VDOT on a temporary road closure to allow this to happen. Once the meter is installed, Foley Plumbing, the County's contractor, will run a water line from Fort Hunt Road into the park with a hydrant inside the enclosed area that can be used to attach a hose for irrigation and  a spigot serving as a permanent water source for the dogs. We expect this project to be completed in the next month or two but do not have a date certain. Project funding is split with half coming from park users' donations and half from a "Mastenbrook" grant awarded to by the FCPA to the Westgrove PACK.

3). Upcoming vote to fill open at-large Board committee member seat. Michelle Randall has served as an interim at-large Board member for the past three months, filling a vacancy left by Darlene Dove who resigned at the end of last year. Michelle will stand for election at our April general meeting. You can read about Michelle on our website at
[http://www.westgrovepack.org/election-page.](http://www.westgrovepack.org/election-page.html)  If you or someone you know is interested in this position and wish to throw your hat in the ring, please send an email expressing your interest with a short bio and we will add your name to the slate. As required by the PACK Bylaws, there will be absentee voting for this election if there is more than one candidate for this position by March 22.

4). South end re-opening. As you know, the south (larger) end of the park was closed for the winter in order to protect the turf surface. It was aerated and reseeded last month.  Fertilization will take place this week (week ending March 19). Our plan is to reopen the south end on Friday, April 15.

5). Dog training classes. Training classes will resume this spring with popular local trainer Michael Tomai <http://www.furryfacedogtraining.com/>.
Mike will offer two classes on Friday evenings starting on May 6. The 5:30 - 6:30class will be for puppies 10 months and younger; the 6:30 to 7:30 class will be for adult dogs. Cost of six one-hour sessions is $120. For more information on the training, go to:  <http://www.westgrovepack.org/>.
6). Board meeting with Dan Storck. In early March, several PACK Board members had a productive meeting with Dan Storck, newly elected Supervisor for the Mount Vernon District of Fairfax County. We discussed ways to improve the efficiency of the public private partnership that charactertizes Westgrove PACK's relationship with Fairfax County and the local business community.  Dan is a big supporter of our park and of public private-partnerships as a means to encourage positive change in the community by encouraging civic involvement and responsibility. He seems very pleased with improvements that have  been already been made as well as those that are envisioned in the Master Plan developed by local architect Scott Erb. See:
<http://www.westgrovepack.org/strategic-planning.html#/>. We are delighted to be able to count on Dan's support for a park that is enjoyed by hundreds of our neighbors and their canine companions.

That's all for now. Please plan to attend the general meeting if your schedule permits. Further information about the meeting will be made available through a handout available at the park, on our website, and in a reminder email to be sent the week before the meeting.

Kathy Seikel
Westgrove PACK